HISTORY

OF

PERSIA.

CONTAINING

A particular Account, not only of that KINGDOM, but also of the most Confiderable STATES of ASIA;

WITH

The CHARACTERS of their PRINCES, and other Persons distinguished by their Birth, Rank, Qualities or Employments,

Translated from the FRENCH ORIGINAL.

With a KEY,

And fome EXPLANATORY NOTES.

— Vitiis Nemo sine nascitur, optimus ille Qui minimis urgetur. HORAT.



LONDON: inted for M. COOPER, in Pater-noster-Row. MDCCXLV. Q 5388.

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THE

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TO attempt prepossessing the Reader in Favour of these Memoirs, would be questioning his Penetration. There are but too many Works, for which the Indulgence of the Publick is requested, and with so much the more Reason, as there are but sew that deserve it. This History is therefore left to the Judgment of the Reader. My End being only to divert and please him, I shall think myself happy, if the Success answers my Desire. The Design of this Presace is no other than to give an Account how the Manuscript fell into my Hands.

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Some

Some Years ago an intimate Friend of mine, who is an Englishman by Birth, wishing to bave some Knowledge of the Kingdom of Persia, set out for Ispahan. A pretty long Stay be made in that City, which rendered the Persian Language as familiar to him as his own Tongue, and especially an uncommon Politeness, won him at Court several Friends of the highest Rank. Of that Number was Ali-Kouli-Kan, First Secretary of State, and a Lord of distinguished Merit. He had in his Library several Manuscripts of Secret History written in the Persian Tongue. He left them at the Disposal of the English Gentleman, who translated Part of those that related to the Reign of Cha-Abas the first of that Name.

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At his Return into England he communicated his Work to me; and the Pleasure I took in the reading of it made me presume, that the Publick would not be displeased with having a more particular Account of a Court, which has been hitherto pretty much unknown in Europe.

I therefore translated those Memoirs into French, with my Friend's Consent. I dare not flatter myself, that I have reached the Elegance and Delicacy of the English Original;

fo that if the Reader be not satisfied, be ought to lay the Blame only upon me. I desire however that it be considered, how much the Genius of the English Tongue differs from the French. The latter is more perspicuous, more regular, but neither so nervous nor so rich as the former, the whole Strength of which I have more than once found it impossing ble for me to express.

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Besides what relates to Persia, the Reader will meet with several Passages in this History, so much the more worthy his Curiosity, as they contain many Particulars concerning the general Affairs of Asia, which it is absolutely necessary to know.

N.B. The KEY inferted in the Notes taken from one printed privately in Holand, and fent us with the Original.

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HISTORY

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PERSIA.

HE Reign of Cha-Abas I.2, who was justly Surnamed the Great, has been one of the most glorious that are to be met vith in the History of Persiab. That Prince ied extremely old, and left no other Successor ut a Grand-fon c, still a Child, and the unforunate Remains of a numerous Family. This oung Prince, whose Name was Cha-Sophid, had y a particular Protection from Heaven, escaped he lamentable Fate of his Father, his Brother nd his Uncles, whom Death had fnatch'd away a very short Time in the Bloom of their Age. s he was of a weak Constitution, he was pretty inderly educated by Women, till he came to be ven Years old, when he was committed to the are of Men. But both these and the former pplied themselves rather to improve his Health, an to instruct him in the Art of Government, id to form his Mind; for as he was the only ope and Support of a great Empire, they judged

a Lewis XIV. b France, and fon. d Lewis XV.

c It should be Great-

judged these Reasons sufficient to spare him the Trouble of studying Politicks, and the Disgust

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Cha-Abas had before his Death taken the Precaution to regulate by his last Will, after what Manner he would have the State governed during his Grand-son's Minority. He excluded from the Administration his Nephew Ali-Homajou e, a Prince of a superior Genius, and adorned with all the proper Qualifications for the Government of a large Empire; and he committed the Care of it to Prince Soliman, one of his Sons, born of a Slave, whom he had most tenderly loved. This Prince was indeed worthy of the Trust reposed in him by his Father; and both on account of his Genius, and his Knowledge, he was but little inferior to Ali-Homajou: And yet we may fafely fay, that a blind pater. nal Love and an ancient Hatred, which Cha-Abas had conceived against his Nephew on a pretty flight Occasion, had shut that Monarch's Eyes upon the Claims of Nature and of Blood. Cha-Abas pretended to make that absolute Authority still reign after his Death, to which nothing could refift during his Life-time. But how much are Men mistaken! The same Instant put an End both to Cha-Abas, and to his Authority: His last Will was cancelled: And suppose that Ali-Hamajou's Ambition had no Share in this great Event, yet the Success of it was owing to his deep Policy and Ability. This historical Fact is interesting enough to deserve a particular Account.

The Authority of the Sophis has no Bounds; they have an unlimited Power over their Subiects

The Duke of Orleans. The Duke of Maine. French Kings.

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Maine.

lects Properties and Lives; no Sovereign in the World is so absolutely and so quickly obey'd as they are. But in the Case of a Minority, the deceased Monarch's Will must be owned and admitted by the Princes, by the Grandees of the Kingdom, by the Divan-Beghih, who is at the Head of the Court of Justice, and by those who with him compose that venerable Body 1. All these therefore meet in the Presence of the young Sophi; the Deceased's last Will is read aloud be. fore them all, they examine it, they weigh every Part of it; and in that Assembly, which represents the whole Nation, the Will is either admitted or cancelled. Such is the Constitution. of the State. Ali-Homajouk, who was not ignorant of this, and who, as first Prince of the Blood, was to make the greatest Figure in that Assembly, did not neglect his Interest. He laboured either by himself, or by his Favourites, to win the most powerful Lords, and those Members of the Court of Justice, who had the greatest Credit. Promises, Threatnings, Presents, strong Arguments, nothing was spared, in order to gain the Suffrages of fome, and to intimidate the rest. Every thing succeeded to the Prince's Wishes; the Day of that Ceremony proved to him a Day of Triumph. As he possessed the Art of Speaking in the highest degree, he delivered a most eloquent Discourse, which ran only upon the Right, his Birth gave him, to the Regency of the Kingdom, a Right, which he proved the late Sophy neither ought nor could transmit unto others to his Prejudice; and, as a kilful Orator, touching but slightly upon his

h The High-Chancellor. 1 The Parliament of Paris. The Duke of Orleans.

own personal Qualifications, he left it to the Assembly to judge of the Merit and Capacity of the two Competitors. All the Suffrages ran in his Favour; the last Will of Cha-Abas was declared void, and Ali-Homajou was unanimously appointed Guardian to young Cha-Sephi, and

Regent of the Kingdom.

This Act both of Policy and Authority, was followed by feveral Establishments of Councils, and by Fromotions, in which Ali-Homajou's Creatures, and those who had no Power to oppose him, had the greatest Share. Prince Soliman', and his Followers, with all those who were obnoxious to the new Regent, were fent into Banishment. It was certainly an Advantage to the Kingdom, that Things took fuch a Turn. By this Means all Subjects of Jealoufy and Difsentions (most dangerous Evils under a Minority) were removed. Every one submitted with fo much the less Reluctancy, as the supreme Authority was now lodged with a Prince, whose lawful Claim to it was univerfally acknowledged, and who was known to be capable to govern well.

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Ali-Homajou's first Care was to cause to be laid before him an Account of the State of the Finances, which he found in the utmost Consussion. Cha-Abas had exhausted all his Treasures to carry on long and expensive Wars: He had contracted immense Debts with the Armenians both Inhabitants of the Kingdom and Foreigners, who had advanced him considerable Funds for the Support of his numerous Armies. Those Debts were to be paid, and the Kingdom was by no means in a Condition to discharge them. The Governors of the Provinces, who had been

The Duke of Maine. m Bankers and Merchants.

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at all Times used to send to the Kings of Perha confiderable Presents, especially of Gold Coin called Rupies", could no longer draw any Moncy from their Governments. The Country was defert, the Lands lay uncultivated, Trade languished, Trust and Credit were intirely lost; in a word, the Kingdom was in the most violent Criss. Yet as the State enjoyed a profound Peace, Ali-Homajou was in hopes, that in a few Years he would be able to restore the Finances, which do unquestionably deserve above all things a Sovereign's Attention. But as the Disorder in that Part of the Government had had a bad Influence upon all the other Branches, the Prince found himself in the greatest Perplexity imaginable. He laboured part of the Days and Nights to make fuch Regulations, which by his great Ability and Laboriousness, he alone was capable to invent, and put in Execution. threw off part of the Business, and particularly the Detail of them, upon an Eunuch, who had had for many Years the Super-intendency of his Seraglio o: His Name was Rustan P: He was a Man of the most obscure Birth, of an ordinary Stature; of a rough and mean Aspect; of a difficult Access; without any religious Principles; having no other Merit but an intriguing Genius, and no other Ability, but that of finding out every Day Women of all Conditions for his Master's Pleasures. This was an Employment, which the Difficulty of meeting with Women adorned with the Youth, Charms and Wit, his Master required, together with his excessive Inconstancy, rendered very laborious: But for that

n Louis d'Or. O The Ladies designed for his Pleasures.
P The Abte afterwards Cardinal du Plois.

fame Reason it was by this that Rustan gained the Prince's intire Confidence, and so great an Authority, that he even dared to refuse with the greatest Roughness, and with the most indecent Expressions, such Favours or Employments, which Ali-Homajou and had granted. An excessive good Nature made the Master wink at the impertinent Conduct of a Slave, whom he certainly despised, but whom he judged he wanted on account of his uncommon Dexterity in providing for his Lust; and whom he raised, by Complaisance rather than from any other Motive, to such Posts, as the more eminent they were, the more they rendered Rustan contemptible.

Ricar and Haffeins, of whom we shall speak hereafter, had already each their proper Employ-

ment.

The Affairs relating to War, were under the Direction of Ibbent, a Man whose Capacity was not equal to fo great a Truft, and who had been raised by the Interest of the Women: He was otherwise pretty much beloved, being good natured, of a pretty genteel Behaviour, and having all the necessary Dispositions to be serviceable. He succeeded to Akabar w, who had justly gained a great Reputation, and who on Account of his Merit, Experience, Affability towards the Gentlemen of the Sword, Zeal to oblige them, and above all his Misfortunes was still daily regretted. Being suspected to have connived at some Misdemeanour, he was put in Prison by Ali-Homajou's Orders. But notwithstanding his long and rigorous Confinement, notwithstanding the Resolution that was taken to ruin

de St. Florentin, t Mr. de Breteuil. Mr. Le Blanc.

ruin him, and the passionate manner in which the Prosecution was carried on against him, and against his pretended Accomplices, they could not find Reasons to inslict a more severe Punishment upon him than mere Banishment: And even in this his Judges were charged with too

much Complaifance for his Enemies.

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Justice was administer'd by Ibrahim*, the most learned Man in Persia", who had long filled with Honour the Office of Deroga 2, in which he acquired a great Reputation. His Merit alone. raised him to the Dignity of Divan-Beghia, to which they added that of Keeper of the Sophy's Seals. An uncommon Example, so much the more glorious for Ibrahim, as the Choice that was made of him was generally applauded! What could not the Public expect from a Ma-. gistrate, who entered so gloriously upon his Office, who had a fublime Genius, an Integrity above all Temptations, an ardent Zeal for the publick Good, and who was perfectly acquainted with all that relates to the Administration of Justice! Whilst all submitted to Ali-Homajou b, the Publick faw with Astonishment, that Ibrahim, who owed his Preferment to him, dared to refift that Prince, and controul his Will with an unshaken Steadiness in such Circumstances, as he judged detrimental to the State. Banishment was the Price of his Resistance, and an immense Glory the Reward of his Banishment. He had been too happy and too great, had he been able to support his Character under his Misfortune. But being too foon difgusted with his Retirement, or tired with the repeated Sollicitations of B 4

^{*} Mr. D'Agnesseau. y France. 2 Advocate General.
2 Chancellor. b The Regent.

his Friends and Relations; or moved on one hand by the Hopes with which the Court flattered him, and on the other by a defire of getting Preferments for his Children, he yielded, and made the Glory he had fo dearly bought, fall a Sacrifice to frivolous Motives. He was restored to those Functions only which related to the Administration of Justice; but being deiected by Age, or by Reflections, he proved ever fince but a very ordinary Man, weak, wavering, applying himself only to Matters of Form, and inconfiderable Details, finishing no Affairs, for fifting them too much, as much flighted now, as he was honoured before, giving himself up too much to his Son, whose bold Projects and violent Counsels engaged him to bring the Sovereign Authority and the Dignity of his Place into Competition with inferior Officers of Justice, who imagining that nothing could be done without them, dared to rife against their Chief with an ill-timed Obstinacy, to which they themfelves fell at last a Sacrifice. The Moment that Ibrahim was out of Favour, the Functions of his Office, were bestowed upon Darachac, a Man of a noble Family, who had a great deal of Wit, and was very understanding; but hard-hearted, and untractable, Defects which answered very well his black and meagre Face, and his four Countenance; but they were not natural to him, for he was born of a chearful and polite Temper. He had for a long time filled up the Place of Great-Cadi d, which requires a rough and fevere Countenance, to which he had used himfelf fo much, that he could not overcome it.

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Lieutenant of the Police.

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When Ali-Homajou restored Ibrahim to the Functions of his Office, he judged proper to continue Daracha in the Post of Keeper of the Sophi's Seals (a), a Place of Trust and Prosit, of which Ibrahim could not see himself deprived without Vexation. But the Prince designing to make the Divan-Beghi a, sensible of the Danger that attends the opposing of the Great, this splitting of his Office was a Continuation of Punishment, to which Ibrahim had full Time to use himself, for the Seals were not restored to him, but about sixteen Years after Ali-Homajou's Death.

Daracha died some Time before Ali-Homajou, and was succeeded in his Office by Fazel, Grand-son to a Merchant, who was grown rich by Trade. He was a Man who had been a very long Time engaged in such Employments as relate to the Finances, but of two shallow Brains to be made a Minister of State, being always led by others in his Opinions, and who owed the Regard that was paid him, only to his Son Abdoul, Sirst Secretray of State. The latter had a great deal of Wit, was beloved by the Nation, esteemed by Foreigners, in Favour with Ali-Homajou, performed the Functions of his Office with Honour, was a great Politician, and an honest Man. Under the Athemadoulet Ismael Beg 4,

(a) The Office of Cancellor in France is for Life, nor can a Man be deprived of it unless he be tried and condemned. So that when a Chancellor falls under the Diffelasure of the Court, he is removed from the Functions of his Office, but keeps the Title, and a Keeper of the Seals is appointed to perform the Chancellor's Functions, which relate to the Administration of Justice.

De Morville. d Cardinal de Fleury.

of whom we shall speak hereaster, the Sophi's Seals were taken from his Father, whom he supported by his Merit and Credit. This Disgrace turned Abdoul's Brains to such a Degree, that he was mad enough to resign his Post of First Secretary of State. From that Moment the Father and the Son were entirely neglected and forgotten (an Accident common at Courts) and they round themselves reduced to a solitary Life, to much the more grievous to them, as they had seen themselves surrounded with a numerous and splendid Court. The Grief that seized them both carried them soon to the Grave.

We shall doubtless be charged here with not following exactly the Order of Time and Events: But we thought it proper, even for the Reader's Conveniency, to relate in one Breath all that regards the same Person, or is connected with the same Fact, in order to avoid Repetitions, and the Disagreeableness of splitting Events, which always creates Perplexity and Confusion. This is the Method which we have followed throughout the Course of this Work: If it be blamed,

we beg the Reader's Indulgence for it.

Ali-Homajou^d, spent the Morning in giving Audience and dispatching Business, and the Afternoons were designed for his Pleasures, which were often continued till late at Night. Being then shut up in his Haram with lovely Women and some Lords, whom he admitted into his Familiarity, he made amends for the Fatigues of Government by indulging himself in voluptuous Pleasures, which he often carried to the utmost Excess of Debauchery. But as we design to consider him only as a Statesman, we shall say nothing of his private Life, nor shall we enter

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into a Description of those famous Entertainments, in which Pleasures of all kinds, even such as put Nature to the Blush, succeeded each other by Turns. This is a Task belonging only to those who shall undertake to write the History of that Prince.

Though Ali-Homajou denied himself no kind of Pleasure, yet he did not for all that neglect the Affairs of Government, nor was he the less active in giving proper Orders, and feeing them executed. Being informed that there was a Conspiracy on Foot in one of the Northern Provinces of Persia e, he found means to discover, that some powerful Lords of that Province were at the Head of it, and had been bribed by the Emissaries of the Emperor of China, who had promised to support the Rebels. Hereupon, Ali-Homajou, under a Pretence of changing the Garrisons in the Kingdom, caused immediately seveal Bodies of Troops, whose Leaders were enirely devoted to him, to march into that Proince, and caused the Guilty to be taken up: But as he was not of a bloody Disposition, only a ew of the Ring-leaders were put to Death. Thus he prevented the general Revolt of a Province, whose Example many others would doubtess have followed. This is an extraordinary Instance of Clemency in a Prince, who is provoked, and has it in his Power to punish; but at the ame Time a noble Lesson, teaching those who govern, that in case of a Rebellion it is the Quality, rather than the Quantity of the Blood which is spilt, that brings the Subjects back to their Duty, and restrains those, whose Loyalty is wavering; and that in such a Cafe, nothing is B 6

France. f The King of Spain,

more effential than a proper Method of feizing

the Guilty, Secrecy, and Dispatch.

The publick Tranquillity being thus restored, Ali-Homajou & thought of nothing more than to be revenged of the Emperor of China h, by carrying the War into his own Dominions. But as it was not Prudence to declare his Intentions before he had fecured his Frontiers against the neighbouring Princes, who might take an Advantage of that War, and of a Time of Minority, to invade the Kingdom, he concluded an Offensive and Defensive Alliance with the Emperors of Mogoli, and Japan k, and with the Sovereigns of the Island of Ceylon . This Treaty, which was kept very fecret, was no fooner figned, but Ali-Homajou threw off the Mask, and caused an Army to enter suddenly into China m. The Emperor being furprized, and dreading his Enemy with very good Reason, temporises; he causes some Advances to be made to the Court of Persian; Negotiations are set on Foot, and a Peace is at last concluded on Condition of a treble Marriage, namely of a Chinese o Princess with young Cha-Sephi P, and two Daughters of Ali-Homajou with the two eldest Sons of the Emperor of China. Ali-Homajou consented fo much the more willingly to a Peace, as his Defign was not to carry on a serious War against the Monarch. of China, but only to disquiet him, and to create him Bufiness enough in his own Dominions to prevent him from meddling with the Affairs of Persia. Thus ended that War,

Emperor of Germany. England. The Dutch.

Spain. France. The Spanish Infanta.

French King.

War, which was finished as soon almost as it

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In order to perform the Conditions of the Treaty, the three Princesses were exchanged at the same Time on the Borders of the two Empires. But of these three Marriages, one only was consummated (b). The two others were put off on Account of the Infancy of the Parties, and, for Reasons of State, did not take Place afterwards.

About the Time of that War, arrived at Ispahan, a Japonese, a Man of a projecting Genius, whom a Defire to make his Fortune had led to the Courts of several Princes, by whom he could not get his Schemes approved. He found Access with Ali-Homajou, which was no difficult Matter; and as he was perfectly acquainted with the bad State of the Finances in Persia, and the Prince's Perplexity, he communicated a Scheme to him, by which he took upon him, not only o pay off in a very short Time, all the Debts of ba-Abas', but also to enrich the Kingdom, and render it more powerful and flourishing, than ever was. Ali-Homajou liked that Scheme, which in Speculation appeared very noble, and he Japonese was ordered, to set himself without Delay about the Execution of it. One is struck with Astonishment at seeing a Prince of so much Wisdom run headlong into a Scheme, the Mishief of which he could not but be sensible of: One

⁽b) Namely, that of the eldest Son of the King of pain, who was Lewis I. with the Duke of Orleans's Daughter. Lewis came to the Crown by his Father's Abdiation, and dying within a Year after, Philip ascended he Throne again.

q. Paris.

An Englishman, or rather Scotchman, amely Law.

Lewis XIV.

One would be inclined to think, that he had Views unworthy of his Birth, and of a Statefman, or, which is more probable, that he imagined the Confusion was such as could not be remedied but by a greater Confusion. And indeed, in less than eighteen Moons the Fortunes of the People were turned topfy-turvy, and the

Kingdom was ruined.

This Scheme t confifted among other Things, in putting in the Room of Gold and Silver Roupies ", with which Persia abounded, a kind of fmall bitter Almonds, which ferved for fmall Money in the neighbouring Countries, and to cause them even to be preferr'd before real Coin, by putting the Publick into a fort of unavoidable. though voluntary Necessity, to set upon them a much higher Value than that of the real Coin, and thus to restore the publick Credit, by causing all the Money in the Kingdom, to pass into the Sovereign's Coffers, whom the Projector pretended by that Means to make the General Cashier or Banker of the Nation. A most fingular Method this, to restore publick Confidence; and of which future Ages will not afford a fecond Instance.

We shall not expatiate upon that Event, nor on the greatest Part of those which happened during the feven Years and some Moons that Ali-Homajou & steered the Helm of State, the Memoirs of those Times having giving a full Account of them. Our Design being only to relate fuch Things as are unknown, or have not been written, or which it is impossible to pass over in Silence, we shall proceed to a Particular which is but little known: It relates to Prince

Giafer

The Mississipi Scheme allegorically described. u Ccin x The Regent. in general.

Giafer Y, whom Ali-Homajou went to visit in the Fortress of Ispahan 2, where he had been kept a Prisoner for several Years. This visit was probably occasioned by no other Motive, but that of making himself certain that that Prince was still living, who was thought to have died of the Plague near thirty Years before, and whose Funeral was celebrated in the Sight of the whole Army. In order to put this Particular in a full Light, we must trace it back from the Reign of Cha-Abas the Great 2.

That Monarch was extremely fond of the fair Sex, and had feveral Mistresses. The first was an Indian b without Beauty, tall, and of a pretty good Shape, but whom Heaven had abundantly favoured with Wit, and amorous Inclinations. Her Heart was full of that delicate Tenderness. which is the Charm of Love, and perhaps the chief Merit of a Woman. Cha-Abas loved her beyond Expression, and had a Son by her, whom he called Giafer. This Prince was educated with all possible Care; he was handfome, well made, full of Wit, but proud, paffionate, not capable to stoop so as to pay to Sophi-Mirza c, the only legitimate Son of Cha-Abas, and the presumptive Heir of his Crown, the Respect he owed to a Prince born to be his King. These two young Princes, almost of the same Age, were of very opposite Characters. Sophi-Mirza, who for his Person was full as agreeable as Giafer, was infinitely above him with regard to the Sweetness of his Temper, his Affability, and good Nature. These Qualities, so much the more to be admired, as they are seldom to be found in a Prince born to reign, rendered Sophi-

The Duke of Vermandois. 2 Paris. 2 Lewis XIV. b Madem. de la Valiere. 5 The Dauphin.

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Sophi Mirza the Object of Giafer's Contempt. The latter declared on every Occasion, that he lamented the Fate of the Persians d, for being once to obey a Prince, without any Wit, and fo little worthy to govern them. Cha-Abas, to whom an Account was daily given of Giafer's Behaviour, was very fensible of the Irregularity of it, but his Authority always yielded to a Father's Love; and this Monarch, so absolute in every Thing else, had not the Strength to punish a Son, who abused his Tenderness for him. last, Giafer forgot himself one Day so far, as to strike Sophi-Mirza. Cha-Abas was immediately acquainted with it, and trembled for the Guilty. But however willing he was to pretend Ignorance of the Attempt, what he owed to himself, and to his Crown, and the Noise that Action had made at Court, could not suffer him to hearken to his Tenderness. He calls together, but not without the utmost Reluctancy, his most intimate Confidents, shews them all his Grief and Concern, and asks their Advice. Con-·fidering the Atrocity of the Crime, and conformably to the Laws of the State, they allvoted for Death. What a Stroke for too tender. a Father! However, one of the Ministers, more affected than the Rest by Cha-Abas's Affliction, told him there was a Method to punish · Giafer, without taking away his Life. That he was to be fent to the Army, which lay then on the Frontiers, towards Feldran e; that foon after his Arrival a Report should be spread, that he was taken ill with the Plague, in order to frighten and keep from him, all those who might have a Mind to see him; that after a few Days of this pretended Illness, he should be said to be

2 The French. e Flanders.

dead of it; and that, whilst in the Sight of the whole Army his Funeral Rites should be performed according to his Birth, he should be carried in the Night-time with the utmost Secrecy, to the Fortress of Ormus, to end his Days there. This Council was generally approved, and especially by the disconsolate Cha-Abas.

They chose trusty and discreet Men to conduct this whole Affair. Giafer sets out for the Army with a splendid Equipage; every Thing is punctually executed as it was projected; and whilst in the Camp they are lamenting the Death of this unfortunate Prince, he is conducted through Byroads, to the Isle of Ormus, and delivered into the Hands of the Commander, who had already received Orders from Cha-Abas, not to suffer his Prisoner to be seen by any Person whatsoever.

One fingle Servant, who was in the Secret, was carried thither with the Prince; but as he died on the Road, the Leaders of the Escort disfigur'd his Face with their Daggers, to prevent his being known, left him in the Road, after they had stripped him for greater Precaution, and

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oe id The Governor of the Citadel of Ormus, treated his Prisoner with the greatest Respect; he waited upon him himself, and took the Dishes at the Door of his Appartment from the Cooks, none of whom ever saw Giaser's Face. This Prince took it into his Head one Day to engrave his Name with the Point of a Knise on the Back of a Flate. A Slave, into whose Hands that Plate fell, imagined he should make his Court to the Governor by bringing that Plate to him, and hoped to be rewarded for it. But the unfortunate Wretch was greatly mistaken; he was made

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away with immediately, in order to bury with him so important a Secret. An unnecessary Precaution! Since it is more than probable, from the Facts we have been relating, that the Secret was but ill kept: Which is a very common Accident, especially in the Affairs of Great Men, who are subject to trust with their Secrets several Persons, amongst whom there are always some who are indiscreet, either by their natural Temper, or by Interest, and often through Hatred and Ingratitude.

Giafer continued several Years in the Citadel of Ormus, from whence he was removed to be carried into that of Ispahan, when Cha-Abas, to reward the Fidelity of the Keeper, made him Governor of the Citadel of Ispahan, which came to be vacant. It was indeed but Prudence to make Giafer follow the Fate of him, with whom he was first intrusted. And it would have been acting against all the Rules of Prudence, to trust a new Confident, who might prove less trusty

and less discreet.

They took the Precaution both at Ormus, and at Ispahan, to make the Prince wear a Mask, when either on the Account of Sickness, or for some other Reasons, they were obliged to expose him to publick View. Several Persons of Credit have afferted, that they have seen more than once that Prince masked; and that he said thee and thou to the Governor, who on the contrary paid him infinite Respects.

If it be asked, why Giafer, since he long survived to Cha-Abas and Sophi-Mirzas, was not set at liberty, as it seems he ought to have been, let it be considered, that it was not possible torestore to his Estate, Rank and Dignity, a Prince, whose

The Bastile at Paris. E Lewis XIV. and the Dauphin.

whose Tomb was still subsisting, and of whose Funeral there were not only living Witnesses, but even written Proofs, the Authentickness of which, whatever might have been imagined, it would have been impossible to destroy in the Minds of the People, still persuaded to this Day, that Giafer died of the Plague in the Camp of

the Army of Feldranh.

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Ali-Homajou 1 died soon after the Visit he paid to Giafer, and the same Year Cha-Sephik was declared to be of Age. Ali-Homajou's Death was fo fudden, that it was suspected it was not natu-To that Prince fucceeded in the Administration of the State Mirza-Haddi 1, a Prince of the Royal Blood, less capable than his Predecesfor, but as much given to Debauchery as he was. The Women had all manner of Credit, under this Athemadoulet m, who after he had been three Years and an half in the Administration, was banished by the Intrigues of a Mehter " named Selimo, who was his professed Enemy. This Mehter was an extraordinary Man, of a fantastical Genius, of a rough Conversation, setting up for an austere Philosopher, and a great lover and promoter of the Good of the Kingdom; but in reality a jealous Man, loving to be confulted upon Matters of Government, who would be one of what is called the little Counsel, and was an Enemy to every Placeman, who did not honour him with his Confidence. He was otherwise a Man of Wit, a skilful Judge of many Things, cherishing and protecting the liberal Arts, curious and pretty well versed in that Part of the Mathematicks, which relate to Mecha-

h Flanders. 1 The Duke of Orleans. k Lewis XV.

1 The Duke of Bourbon. m Prime Minister. n A Nobleman, o The Duke of Villeroi.

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an Opportunity to speak of this Moullah.

There happened nothing remarkable during the Course of Mirza-Haddi's Administration, but the sending back the Princess of China, and the Marriage of Cha-Sophi with the Daughter of Chekour, King of Thibet, a Fugitive and roving Prince, to whom a Province of Persia had for many Years served for an Asylum; and the Opportunity which Mirza-Haddi lost of putting the Crown on the Head of one of his Sisters. The Reader will perhaps be well pleased to know what

made that Affair miscarry.

After the Princess of China had been sent back, the Question was to choose a Spouse for Cha-Sophi. Roxana*, Mirza-Haddi's Mother, was a Princess who had acted a great Part under the Reign of Cha-Abas y, and whose Genius was equal to her Ambition. She imagined, that as her Son was at the Head of the Administration, it would not be impossible to make one of her Daughters share the Throne of Persia. She imparted her Scheme to her Son, whom she found ready to enter into her Views, but did not think proper to appear himself in that Intrigue; not being willing, that if an Affair of that Nature came to miscarry, the ill Success and the Rashness of the Project should be imputed to him, but on the contrary, that both might be excused by the Excess

P A Clergyman, afterwards Cardinal de Fleury.

9 Lewis XIV. * Duke of Bourbon. * The Infanta
of Spain. * St nislaus King of Poland. w France.

The Dutchess Dowager of Bourbon. * Lewis XIV.

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Excess of a Mother's Fondness for her Daughter: This was but a natural Sentiment, and the more fo, confidering the Ambition of a Woman, which is at least as powerful on the Heart of the fair Sex. He left therefore the whole Management of this important Negociation to his Mo-The Daughter on whom she pitched, was called Saheb 2, a most beautiful Princess, then about twenty-two Years of Age, tall, exquisitely well-shaped, adorned with a great deal of Wit, and with fuch a Knowledge as is rarely to be met with among the Persian 2 Ladies, even of the most noble Birth; an uncommon good Nature, a fweet and amiable Temper, and a great and steady Mind: A Princess, in a word, worthy the high Rank to which her Mother wanted to raise her. She was from her Infancy retired into a Haramb, which she would never stir out from; not even to take the Air in the Country. furrounded with Ladies who loved and respected her, she led a pretty solitary but peaceable Life. Her Mother went to see her, attended with two Women lost to all Reputation, and with whose Character it is proper to acquaint the Reader.

The one, called Fatima, tho' still pretty young, had lost something of that great Beauty with which she first made her Appearance in the World: Yet she was very handsome. She was a fair Woman, with large languishing. Eyes, in which Cupid seemed to have settled the Seat of his Empire; she had a charming Mouth, a Nose perfectly well made; the Round of her Face was admirable, her Breast and Arms more admirable still: Her Shape would have been above the middling Size, had it not been so thick. In her

² Maden. De Sens. ² French. ^b Convent. ^c Madam. De Nesle.

whole Person appeared an Air of Voluptuousness, not to say any thing worse, which betrayed her Character. Her Soul was the Slave of her sensual Inclinations, her Heart deceitful, and her Wit but indifferent. Though she was married to a Lord of the Kingdom, yet she shared the Favours of Mirza-Haddi with Zulima, whose Character we shall now describe.

Zulima, the Wife of another Lord, was tall, well shaped, of a brown Complexion, not so beautiful, indeed, as Fatima, but more lively, more gay, more witty, of as despicable a Character, but with a steadier Mind, as much given to sensual Pleasures, caring but little whether she was esteemed or not, if Men would but pay to her Charms the Homages she required, which

the would have real and frequent.

These two Women lived together in a persect good Understanding, and shewed themselves Rivals only in the Invention of Pleasures, and in the Glory of tasting them themselves, or in communicating them to others. They were both destitute of all Modesty, and had no other Merit but that of being persectly acquainted with the Art of leading the Senses by Degrees to the greatest Excesses which Debauchery and Luxuri-ousness can invent. It was impossible not to conceive Love for them, and at the same time not to blush for Shame at a Weakness, which a nice and refined Sense could not but condemn.

Such were the Persons, with whom Mirza-Haddi's Mother would be attended: An inexcufable Fault! Which made her lose the Fruit of her Journey, and frustrated the Hopes, with which her ambitious Heart had flattered itself.

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Saheb f did not fuffer herself to be dazzled by her Mother's Propofal. The Throne, on which she was shewed it was in her Power to seat herself, far from tempting her, was displeasing to her; the Crown offered to her by infamous Negotiatrixes, prov'd to her but an Object of Contempt. Being mov'd by her Mother's Goodness, she testified her Gratitude to her; but at the same time she could not forbear telling her, even in the Prefence of Fatima and Sulima; " That she was far " from thinking a Negotiation was carried on in " Earnest, for which she had thought proper to, " choose only the two most despised and most " despicable Women at Court: That as she had " led a retired Life, ever fince her most tender "Infancy, she was used to look upon all Gran-" deurs with an unconcerned Eye, and renounc-

" ed them for ever." The Princess, her Mother, used all her Endeavours to inspire her with Sentiments more agreeable to her Views; but could not succeed, and being vexed to the utmost Degree, she was obliged to go back without being able to persuade her Daughter. rare and wonderful Instance of Steadiness, and of a noble Indifference for the highest Rank, in a Princess, young, beautiful, and who knew herfelf worthy of it.

Thus Mirza-Haddi g, by trusting too much to his Mother's Dexterity, or by an ill-timed Prudence, lost the Opportunity of raising his Family to the highest Degree of Power and Grandeur, and to fecure himself against the Stroke, which his Enemies levelled at him afterwards, whom he would have feen cringing before him, if he had procured to himself the Advantage of being the

Sophi's

f Mademoiselle De Sens. E The Duke of Bourbon.

Sophi's h Brother-in-Law. Chekour's Daughter, as we have already observ'd, gained by Saheb's Refusal, and married Cha-Sephi.

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Mirza-Haddi was fucceeded in the Post of A-themadoulet by Ismael-Beg k, that same Moulah,

who was the Instrument of his Downfall.

Before we speak of the new Scenes, which shall now fill the Theatre of the Court of Persia, it is proper to make the Reader acquainted with the principal Actors, beginning with the Sophi m himself, whose Person and Character we have not yet described.

Cha-Sephin, at the Age of fixteen or seventeen, was handsome, and of a proper Size: He had an exquisite fine Leg, a noble Air, large Eyes, a Countenance fweet rather than proud, brown Eye-brows, a weak Constitution, which, however as he grew up, was so far strengthened, that he was able afterwards to undergo the greatest Fatigues. As his Education had been neglected, his Mind was but little adorned; he was of a mild and bashful Temper, and had an unconquerable Aversion for Business, which he could not fo much as bear to be mention'd. He made Hunting his daily Occupation, spoke little, unless it were with his most familiar Favourites, and out of Sight of the Courtiers. He shewed at first a great Indifference for Women, and for Feafting, both which he loved afterwards very much. He would be obey'd, but from a Sense of his own Rank, rather than from his Inclination, his Physiognomy not bearing that decisive Air, which shows the Character of an imperious Man. Differing much from his Predecessor, he loved neither Magnificence, nor those pompous Ceremonies,

h The French King, 1 Lewis XV. k Cardinal De Fleuri, 1 France. The King. Lewis XV.

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Ceremonies, in which a great Man shews fo well what he is. He did not know how to reward. nor did he patronize the Sciences, nor the learned, nor those Men who excelled in their Art or Profession. However, he could speak very well of many things, and was perfectly versed in the History of his own Kingdom, and of the other States of Asia . He was strongly addicted to his Religion, and as zealous, at least, as any of his Predecessors, for the Sect of Hali P. He was a good King, a good Master, capable of Friendship, and knowing how to give Proofs of it: Rather more peaceable than warlike, more weak than great; too negligent of a glorious Reputation, indolent, hating and dreading Application, little generous; not wanting for Genius, but seeing only through the Eyes of the Athernadoulet Ismael-Beg 9, to whom he was too much a Slave: in a word, a Prince, who had not that Soul, which unquestionably makes a King to be known, and ought to put a Stamp upon all his Actions.

The Sultana-Queen was older than Cha-So-phi: Her Shape and Beauty were but indifferent, her Air and Port not very noble; but she was of a sweet and amiable Temper, good-natured, and had Wit enough to meddle with nothing, and not to enter into any Court Intrigue: She was adorned with Virtue and good Sense; too often left to herself, she had the Art not to shew that she was sensible of that Want of Attention and Regard. It is easy to judge, that with those Qualities, and that living indirectly under the Dependance of an A-

themadoulet

º Europe. P The Jesuits. 9 Cardinal de Fleury.

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phi, she had but little or no Credit.

The first Person of the State, after the Cha-Sephi and his Children, was Seffeing, Son of Ali-Homajou, a Prince in the Bloom of his Age, leading a retired Life, appearing feldom at Court, taking hardly any Share in State-Affairs, devout beyond measure, affecting all the outward shew of it, devoting himself by turns to different Imans', regulating his Zeal by theirs, and for that very Reason being often a Bubble to his own Zeal, loving to do good; distinguishing every Day of his Life by Charities, fometimes ill-placed, willing to be thought a Man perfectly understanding the Art of Government, of which he had but an imperfect Theory; otherwise very virtuous and wellmeaning.

Mirza-Haddi w, whom we have already mentioned, was tall, lean, not very agreeable in his Person, of a rough and uncomplaisant Humour; curious and fond of scarce and precious Things; in Possession of a very beautiful Wife, whose Merit he was not thoroughly sensible of; looking elsewhere for Pleasures, which he was not well in a Condition to enjoy; living high and nobly, and going but seldom to Court, since he came again into Favour.

He had two Brothers; the one named Orcan*, had been very dissolute in his Youth: the most excessive Debauchery was for a long time the Soul of his Pleasures, and Cruelty the Bounds of his Actions: He was well shaped,

^{*} Prime Minister. * The Duke of Orleans, Son to the late Regent. * Clergymen. w The Duke of B. urbon. * The Count of Charolois.

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adorned with a fine Genius: Through Age and Reason he deserved at last that his former Follies should be buried in Oblivion. The other Brother, whose Name was Miram, was handsome, but had a clumfy Shape, and a narrow Genius; he loved to live high, and caused Women to be searched for every where to fill his Haram, running continually from one to the other, and not always giving the Preserence to her, who deserved it most, and being capable to spend all his Riches, in order to indulge his inconstant Inclination.

Morat-Bakche², the Son of a Sister of Mirza-Haddi, was in his younger Days extremely handsome and well-made: He had a great deal of Wit, and was of an amiable Character; nor did he, when grown to a Man's Estate, much disappoint the Hopes that had been conceived of him. He was Brave, loved the Art of War, was brisk, jealous of his Rank, but too Prodigal, which Fault put his Estate into some Disorder.

Among the Princes, who made a Figure at Court, were two Brothers, Sons to Cha-Abas^a, by a Slave, whom he had been extremely fond of. The eldest, whom we have already mentioned, was named Soliman^b, He had a bright Genius, a great Sprightliness, a noble Soul; was honest and capable to govern, but all those fine Qualifications were a little soiled by too great a Propensity to Covetousness.

The youngest, whose Name was Sevagic, was handsome, well-shaped, generous, mild,

The Count of Clermont. 2 The Prince of Conti.

Lewis XIV. b The Duke of Maine. 2 The Count of Toulouse.

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and compassionate. His Wit was not so shining as Soliman's, but he had an exquisite Judgment, and was very regular in his Manners. He was univerfally efteemed, nor was he less beloved, even by his own Domesticks, whom however he used a little too severely. Prince Ali-Homajou d, he had some Share in the Administration, and acquitted himself very well of it. But his too exalted Sense of Virtue, and what is called a Genius for Particulars or Details, made People judge that he would hardly have succeeded in the first Post, and that by too much fifting State Affairs, he would often have made them linger too long. In a word, he was thought too honest a Man to make a good Minister. We shall have again an Opportunity to speak of that Prince.

Ismael-Beg e was at least threescore and thirteen Years old, when Cha-Sephi f made him Athemadoulet g. Being born in one of the Southern Provinces of Persiah, of Parents if not obscure, at least very little known, he was defigned for the State of Iman i, and educated in the Sciences proper for that Profession, into which he entered very young. His young Heart devoured with Ambition, would not fuffer him to confider, without a kind of Madness, that he was condemned to fpend his Days in a remote Province, and his Defires carried him daily with great Violence towards the Court. He made Interest, and succeeded fo well, that he presented himself there, well provided with pretty good Letters of Recommendations, which his Youth, and agree-

^d The Regent. ^e Cardinal de Fleury. ^f Lewis XV. ^B Prime Minister. ^h France. ¹ Of a Clergyman. ng-

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able Person rendered effectual. This young Iman appeared immediately with a noble Boldness upon that new Stage, where he was not long looked upon as a Stranger: He foon obtained a Place of Moullabk; and some Years after, by dint of Intrigues, he was appointed by Cha-Abas 1, Scheick-el-Selom (c) of a Province: He left that Post only to come to Court again, by order of the Cha-Abas, who had appointed him Tutor to Cha-Sephi; he gain'd an absolute Power over that young Prince's Mind; and kept it till his Death. During his highest Elevation he never beheld with Astonishment the immense Distance there was between his present Condition, and that he was born in: He had used himself very young to think that he was born for the most exalted Offices, a Notion in which he had been confirmed by the Astrologers, to whose Prediction he trusted very much; a Weakness common to the whole Persian m Nation.

When Ismael-Beg took in hand the Helm of the State, he was still a pretty handsome Man, notwithstanding his great Age: He had a fresh Complexion, brisk Eyes, a piercing Look, a high Forehead, a well-shaped Nose, red Lips, a Shape above the middling Size, streight and easy, a fine Leg, a firm Gait, and a noble C 3

k Curate or Rector of a Parish.

Lewis XIV.

m French.

⁽c) A Dignity which gives to him, who is invested with it, a Right to determine all Points relating to Religion. This Note is in the French Original; and it is Itain the Author understands here a Bishoprick; viz. that of Frejus, to which the Abbet, afterwards Cardinal de Fleury, was premeted.

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Aspect: He had a subtle Genius, an unbounded Ambition, and was better skilled, than the most artful Courtier, in the Intrigues of a Court, knowing how to yield to Circumstances, able to make the best Advantage of them; his outward Behaviour was modest, attended with an Air of Candour and Sincerity, proper to impose upon the unwary: He spoke well, and had his private Views even in the most indifferent Conversations: He was a Flatterer with the Great, polite towards every one, extremely complaifant to the Ladies, with regard to whom he was suspected to have had uncommon Qualifications, by which means he had raifed himself; he was voluptuous by Inclination, but fober and temperate by Reason; a dreadful Enemy, a contemptible Friend; deceitful and treacherous, not only by the Nature of his Profession, but even by Reflection, and with Design; repaying with the blackest, Ingratitude the good Offices he received: he had a pretty extensive Knowledge, but too mean a Soul to be able to govern a large Kingdom. He was always undetermined, and confequently flow in the Expedition of Affairs; not knowing how to make War or Peace in a proper time; having no manner of Knowledge in the former: Sparing of his Master's Treasures beyond all Expression; and yet weak enough to buy the Friendship of neighbouring Princes by dint of Money, neglecting what was most Essential, and amusing himself with Trisles; wishing in general for the Good of the Kingdom, but not knowing how to promote it; jealous of the Prince's Authority, and stretching it too

far; a zealous Adherer to the Sect of Hali ". and the open Tyrant of the Followers of Omar o; fuffering himself to be too easily prepossessed, and uncapable to be undeceived; condemning without Examination, making much of Informers, paying little or no Regard to the Recommendation of Princes and great Men; making his Favours to be bought by inceffant Solicitations; and yet so fearful as not to be able to refuse those who knew to ask for them with Boldness: Notknowing enough to distinguish and reward true Merit; imagining that he understood Mankind, and knew how to employ Persons properly, and almost always deceived by those he employed: Too little acquainted with the strong and weak Sides of the Kingdom both within and without; of so pacifick a Disposition, that often he dared not put himself in a Condition to force the neighbouring Powers to make Satisfaction for their Attempts; chusing rather to affect not to be acquainted them, than to profecute a Reparation by means both honourable, and proper to make the Crown of Persia P be respected: For the rest, he loved his Master, was close, so as not to be sifted; and had not made any Advantage of his Place, nor of his Master's Favour, to get Riches, having long refisted the Ambition of raising his Family; but to be blamed in this, that as foon as he yielded to that Passion, he elevated some of his near Relations to too high a Rank.

Such was he, whom Cha-Sephi q made Choice of to be at the Head of the Administration. The

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Affairs of the Kingdom did foon take a quite different Turn. The Weakness to which it was reduced by the fatal Blow, which Ali-Homajou b had given it, the Distrust, which had only encreased during Mirza-Haddi's Administration, the Scarcity of Corn, which happen'd the Year before he was removed, the Misery and Diseases, the unavoidable Consequences of a Famine; the disadvantageous Rate to which the current Coin had been raised; the Disorders which prevailed in every Branch of the Government, and especially in the Finances, all these Evils vanished away; publick Trust gained the upper Hand both within and without the Kingdom, Trade revived, every Thing was put in a good Order, and Persia d, which some Moons before looked like a waste and desolate Country, became in a little Time more flourishing, than perhaps it had ever been. If there were but this fingle Event during the whole Administration of Ismael-Beg e, it does him an infinite deal of Honour, and deserves that, after the Example of ancient Rome, Statues be crected to him, as the Restorer of his Country. But if he did then promote the general Good of the Kingdom, he could foon after be charged with procuring the Ruin of many Families, by suppressing certain yearly Rents payable during their Lives, and charged on the very Funds of the State; Rents which ought to have been fo much the more facred, that the Necessity of the Times, rather than the public Credit, had forced

Duke of Corleans by the Missisppi Scheme. The Duke of Lourbon. d France. e Cardinal De Fleury.

forced several private Persons, even as soon as the Administration of Ali-Homajou, to deposite their Fortunes into the Hands of the Sovereign at a moderate Interest. That Contrivance rendered Ismael-Beg sodious to the whole Nation. It was reckoned unjust to make the Sophi h win in less than one Day, what in a small Number of Years he would have acquired naturally and lawfully by the Death of the Persons concerned; this Injustice appeared the more heinous, as the Benefit hence accruing to the Prince was but small, and the Loss to

every private Person very great.

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Ismael-Beg was sensible of the Discredit he had drawn upon himself in the Minds of the People, and, to win again the Esteem of the Publick, he thought himself obliged to make a Sacrifice of Mahameti, who had the Management of the Finances. He imagined, that by turning him out, he would persuade the Perfians k that this Sub-minister was the only Author of the Mischief; but he was disappointed in his Expectation: For though Mahamet was known to be a hard-hearted Man, always upon the Watch to seize a favourable Opportunity to promote the Sovereign's Advantage, yet he was reckon'd a Man of Sense and Judgment, he had acquired a great Experience, was very skilful, perfectly acquainted with the Condition of the Kingdom, and disposed to balance, with a kind of Equity, the Interest of the Prince with that of the Subjects. Far from suspecting him

French King.

1 Mr. Pellitier des Forts, or, as it is in the printed Key, Mr. Doudan.

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of proposing that fatal Project, it was unquestionably known, that he had strongly opposed it. So that he was generally pitied, and Ismael-Beg alone continued loaded with the publick Hatred. Mahamet did not long survive his Misfortune.

His Post was given to Rhedi 1, a Man of a mean Extraction, who had spent Part of his Life in the Corps of the Goulams (a), where he commanded a Troop of fifty Horse. Rhedi, when Ismael-Beg pitched upon him, was already in a declining Age; he was tall, of a rough Aspect, a sour Look, a knitted Brow, a hoarse Voice, a savage Access, and the Tone of his Voice was extremely rough: He was charged with loving Prefents, and with fuffering even his nearest Relations to sell his Protection for Money: He had, by means of his Employment, established his Fortune and that of his Family, upon a folid Foundation. He was obstinate, unacquainted with Business, almost always refusing, seldom granting any Favour, and both without knowing why; making of every Thing a Sacrifice to Cha-Sephi's m Interest; uncapable to procure the Nation the least Relief. and not being fensible, that by requiring Supplies from the People beyond Measure, he drained the very Springs of the Prince's Treasures. He was uncapable to procure any Favour or Indulgence to the Trading Part of the Nation;

1 Mr. Orrie: m Lewis XV.

⁽a) A Troop of Horse composed of Slaves, or Children of Slaves; they are most of them Georgians. This Corps had the second Rank in the Persian Cavalry.—This Note is in the Original.

and supported himself in his Place, only by an exceffive Hard-heartedness, and by his uncommon Care to keep always large Funds ready, a kind of Merit esteemed much beyond its Worth, and which he was posses'd of to the highest Degree. In order to pay his Court to Ismael-Beg ", by seeming to comply with his Inclination to faving, he used to delay necessary Payments, and to cut off feveral Articles from the Bills of Undertakers and Workmen, without any Examination, and without entring into Otherwise he was a Man of Wit, and acquired, during the long Time he continued in Place, the Knowledge he wanted: On some Occasions he gave good Advice with regard to some difficult Undertakings, the good or bad Success of which depended on proper Measures previously taken, and from Preparations proportion'd to their Importance; in which the Event prov'd that his . Thoughts. were well grounded.

In the mean Time, the Kingdom enjoyed a profound Peace: But Ismael-Beg questioned, not without Reason, whether it would continue much longer. The Jealousy of some Powers, always the Enemies of Persia, the Contempt they had perhaps entertained for the Administration of a Man, whose way of living had been till then of a quite different kind, Treaties between several Princes, considerable warlike Preparations, which were making in the neighbouring Countries, every Thing seemed to forebode an approaching War, which Ismael-Beg judged unavoidable for Persia, considering her situation, and how much she was concerned

in the general Affairs of Afia P. Therefore this Minister renewed the ancient Alliances, entred into new ones, and, at all Events, put himself in a Condition to fear nothing. Augmentations were made in the Armies; the Officers had Orders to get their Field-Equipages ready, and to repair immediately to their respective Stations; Generals were appointed, and the Frontier-

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Towns put in a State of Defence.

A Rupture was at Hand, the Armies were ready to take the Field, when a Spirit of Conciliation feized all the contending Powers; fo that the great Preparations which Ismael-Beg had made, came to be of no use, unless it be perhaps to make the Enemies of Persia reflect a little, and to inspire them with more Regard for her, and with more Circumspection. All the Princes put down their Arms, and, in Emulation of one another, fent their Embassadors to Schiras q, a City in Persia, which Ismael-Beg had pointed out to them, there to examine the respective Claims and Interests of the Parties, and to endeavour to fecure the Tranquillity of all Asia. Thus all the Powers found themselves obliged to come and treat, as it were, in the very Presence of the Athemadoulet's, and to fing to the Tune he was pleased to set them.

Persia acquired a great deal of Honour and Glory at that Juncture, but the greatest Part of it was due to Cosrou', upon whom Ismael-Beg had bestowed both the Place of First Secretary of State, and that of Keeper of the Sophi's. Seal, after the Disfavour of Fazel, and the

P Europe. 9 Soiffons. Europe. Prime-Mi ifter of France. Mr. Chauvelin. "Cardimal De Fieury. W Mr. D'Armenouville. Refignation of his Son Abdoul x, two Persons

whom we have mentioned above.

Cofrou was of a diffinguished Family among the Gentlemen of the Law, and amongst whom he had filled with Glory one of the chief Posts. He was a great Politician, endowed with a fublime, but dangerous Genius. To a refined and delicate Wit, he joined an easy and obliging Access, a charming Familiarity, and an enfnaring Conversation. He kept Correspondence with the greatest Lords at Court, and conversed with them without Meanness; he was welcome with the Ladies; careful in procuring himself powerful Friends, whose Credit might support him, in case he should come to be out of Favour. He was skilful in finding out his Enemies, and could disappoint their Meafures with fo much the more Certainty, as he was perfectly acquainted with all the Intrigues of the Court: He had extensive Views, large Defigns, and an almost unbounded Correspondence. He was fecret without Affectation, and facrificed part of his Sleep to Business, so that he was expeditious: He attempted many thingsat once, but was equal to them all. He was a Lover of Men of Merit, and a Protector and Encourager of the liberal Arts, zealous to make them flourish. He was beloved and courted by Foreigners, who went away from him always. fatisfied, and enchanted; he was dreaded by all the Powers in Afia : He never refused, but what it was impossible for him to grant, and his Refusal was always attended with a great Politeness, and Testimonies of Affection. In every thing he was superior to Ismael-Beg, who reposed.

* Mr. De Morville. Y Europe.

reposed his Confidence in him; but he was tired with acting only as a Subaltern, so much the more, as he was sensible of his Superiority. In a Word, we may say, that he was a Man of Merit.

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Excepting the Finances, and the inland Trade of the Kingdom, which was the Province of Rhedi², the Detail of Affairs was divided between three Persons, who gave an Account of them to Cosrou²; the latter conferr'd afterwards

about them with Ismael-Beg.

The first had the Direction of the Marine, and the foreign Trade; his Name was Rica b. He had a long and lean Face, a large Forehead, large and blue Eyes, a pretty fweet Aspect, a long Nose, a Mouth neither small nor large; a peaked Chin, his Head a little flat; an agreeable Air, a pale Complexion, a Conflitution which feemed weak, a tall and thin Shape, a thin Leg, and a pretty noble Countenance. He was lively, ambitious, born with a great deal of Wit, perfectly acquainted with all the Delicacies of his Mother-Tongue; expressing himself with a graceful Air; understanding, and working with Eafiness, but lazy; a Fault which his Inclination for Feafting and Pleasures, in which he fometimes spent whole Nights, forced upon him, by the Necessity he was under, to take in the Day-time the Rest he lost at Night. He entered very young, and in the Reign of Cha-Abasc, upon the Employment he had; and as he had enjoyed many Years, he acquired in it a very great Experience, of which he did not make all the Use he might, and ought to have done. He loved Men of Letters, and the

² M. Orri. ² M. Chauvelin. ^b The Count of Maurepas. ^c Lewis XIV.

polite Arts; he had made feveral Friends, and knew how to keep them: But he kept Company only with a few soluptuous Men like himfelf, with whom, and often also with gay Ladies, he used to make in the Evening secret Parties of Pleasures, the Charms of which consisted less in the exquisite Meats, and most delicious Wines, than in the Abundance of witty, delicate, free, and even licentious Things that were faid, and in the uncommon and diverting Scenes that passed there. He was beloved by the whole Body of the Sea-faring Men, whose Interest he strongly supported on every Occafion. He had found Means to please Cha Sephi d, who looked kindly upon him; nor was he out of Favour with Ismael-Beg o, to whom he was reproached to have paid his Court with fome Meanness, a Weakness which the Care of making his Fortune, and the Esteem and Advantages annexed to a confiderable Post might render excufable.

The fecond was Ofman , whom Ismael-Beg had taken from the Government of a Province. to confer upon him the Direction of Matters relating to War: An Office to which he was unequal, and the Functions of which he performed only by the Affistance of Men of an accomplished Understanding, and of whose Knowledge and Labour he reaped all the Honour and Reputation. He was too fevere, little beloved by the Gentlemen of the Sword. whose Interest he did not sufficiently Support. He was worn out, not fo much by Labour, and by Age, for he was not old, as by indulg-

ing his Pleasures without Moderation.

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The third, whose Name was Hassein s, had the Direction of the general Affairs relating to the Religion of the Gaurts h, and to the Disposal of the Places of Moullabs, and other Gentlemen of the Law i. This was a little Man, as thick as he was long, without any Ambition, and of a very indifferent Understanding; he was more taken up with Pleasures, and the Company of Women, than with the Affairs of his Office. Ismael-Beg found him in his Employment, and continued him in it; judging perhaps that the Business he was charged with

did not require a greater Capacity.

If the different Statesmen we have been speaking of, be well confidered; if their different Genius's, their Characters, their Talents, their Virtues, and their Defects, be compared together, one cannot form a very favourable Judgment of the Government of Persia k; and one may well be furprized, that that Kingdom, though rich, powerful, and peopled with Subjects, who are brave, industrious, of an unthaken Love and Fidelity for their Sovereign, was capable to bear itself up. Cofreu was the only Person who could be said to have all the Qualifications necessary in a great Minister: But when the Jealoufy of his Brethren could not cause the advantageous Schemes he propefed to be rejected, their Ignorance, their Laziness, or their Want of Good-will made them miscarry in the Execution. Thus that great Empire governed itself, if I may be allowed that Expression, and by the Habit of a certain Disposition to Order, to which it had been used a long Time; or to speak more properly,

M. De S. F'orentin. b The Reformed. i The Bi-Scops and other Clergymen. k France. Chauvelin. had

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properly, the supreme Disposer of Crowns protected that of *Persia*, and his Divine Providence watched for its Preservation.

How much is the Fate of Kings to be pitied! Their Greatness, their Glory, the Happiness of their Subjects depend on the Choice they make of Persons for the Administration of State Affairs; and that Choice is very seldom the Effect of the Knowledge they have of Men, or the Reward of Merit, but is almost always the Produce of Favour or of Chance. Hence proceeds the Ruin of the Monarchies the most firmly established; Ruin, which is the more or the less sudden, in Proportion to the greater or lesser Number of blundering and vicious Men that are employed in the Administration, and to the Time they continue in it. A great and useful Lesson, which the History of all Ages teaches Princes, and which cannot be too often repeated to them.

Let us leave Persia a Moment, to give an Account of an Event, at which all Ajia " was astonished. Koturi, Prince of Fesova o, who fince ten Years had found Means to add to his Principality the Kingdom of Nechal P, being tired with governing Subjects, who were not less tired too with obeying him, resolved on a fudden to abdicate his Dominions in Behalf of his Son Korfula q, then about twenty-nine, or thirty Years old. He kept to himself only a moderate Income, and a Castle to which he retired with a Woman Slave whom he loved entirely, and with a small Number of Officers. The Abdication of this Prince could not be believed, till the Moment People were positively certain

m France. n Europe. O Victor Amadeus Duke of Savoy. P Sardinia. A The present King of Sardinia.

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certain that Korfula was really in a quiet Possesfion of his Father's Dominions. Amongst the feveral Motives which were thought to have determined Koturi, that which feems the most probable is as follows. That Prince being pretty much advanced in Years, did not question but his Subjects were not very well pleafed with his Administration, and were extremely attached to his Son, whom he looked upon as the greatest Obstacle to the Execution of a Design he had formed. He judged that they would refuse to acknowledge for their Sovereign the Woman Slave we have been speaking of, with whom, being blinded by Love, he was refolved to share his Throne: He chose therefore to lead an easy and quiet Life with that fame Woman, whom, they fay, he married, rather than to run the Danger of exposing his Authority, and to have the Vexation not to succeed in an Affair he had fo much at Heart. But being afterwards animated by the artful Discourses of that ambitious Favourite, who had an absolute Power over him, it was not long before he repented that he ever left the Throne. He wanted only a plaufible Pretence to ascend, it again, and sufficient Means not to miscarry in the Attempt. The Means were foon afforded to him by the great Number of Malecontents his Son had lately made, by removing, without the least Regard to his Recommendation, the Ministers and principal Lords, of whom his Councils were composed; and the Pretence he was made to find in the Conduct of the present Administration, which could not but be looked upon as a Censure of his own: A Conduct, say they, which gave just Reasons to fear, that these Dominions which he had enlarged, and rendered flourishing

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flourishing during a long Reign, were now going to decline, and to fall, by the Imprudence and want of Knowledge in a Prince, who gave himself over to such Ministers which the preceding Government, that was fo understanding, always thought proper to keep out of the Administration: Men, besides, who could be justly suspected to have no other Views but their own private Interest to the Detriment of the State, fince they laboured nothing more earnestly than to remove those who by a long Experience and unshaken Fidelity were alone capable to oppose their pernicious Schemes. Such Discourses being often repeated produced their Effect. turi s formed secretly a powerful Party, by the Affistance of which, he would certainly have ascended the Throne again, had not Korsula t, almost the very Moment the Plot was to be executed, been informed, by the Care of an able and vigilant Minister ", of the Conspiracy made against him. He prevented Koturi, confined him fo closely in his Castle, that one would have took him for a State Criminal, rather than for the Father of the reigning King. Koturi lived but about two Years after his Abdication. He was not much lamented at his Death, and carried with him to the Grave the Reputation of a deceitful, dissembling and faithless Prince, who abandoned a Party as foon as he found his Account better in the opposite Party, having spent his whole Life in making a shameful Traffick of his Alliance, without any regard to the most solemn Treaties. For the rest, he was a subtle Politician, knowing how to come to his Ends, understanding his own Interest perfectly well,

Victor Amadeus. The present King of Sardinia. The Marquis of Ormea.

capable to make the best Advantage of the Situation of his Dominions, the Usefulness of which with regard to the Powers who furrounded him, he was thoroughly apprized of. His Son, who was a brave Prince, and versed in the Art of War, shewed afterwards to all Afia x, that by fucceeding to the Dominions of his Father, he had also inherited his Genius, his Amth

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bition, and his refined Policy.

In the mean Time, the Court of Persia, was not free of Intrigues. Each Minister had his Party, each Party was headed by Persons who had a great Credit and Power, and the Women, being determined either by their Inclination, by their Fancy, or by some private Interests, were the Soul of these different Parties. The Family of Mirza-Haddi 2, with a great many Lords, whose Sentiments were ruled by the Rank and Power of that Family, supported Cofrou . Roxana, Mirza-Haddi's Mother, a proud, resolute, passionate, and revengeful Princess, something fond of Confusion, and who loved to make a Figure, animated that Faction. Teffeing b, Soliman c, and Sevagi d, without declaring themselves openly against Cosrou, inclined for Rica and Ibrahim . The Authority of these Princes, together with the Credit of their Relations and Friends, who were very numerous, put it so much the more in their Power to balance the Party of Cofrou, as the Athemadoulet 8 and Sevagi were Friends. The latter had declared himself particularly for Rica, and this

x Europe. y France. 2 The Duke of Bourbon. a Chauvelin. b The Duke of Orleans, the Kegent's Son. " The Duke of Main. d The Count of Touloufe. " The Count of Maurepas. f Chanceller D'Aguesseau. & The prime Minister, Cardinal De Fleuri.

this was enough for Roxana, to favour the opposite Side; for she had long waited for an Opportunity to thwart that Prince and Soliman, between whom and her, though they were her Brothers, there was a great misunderstanding. Ismael-Beg, who was Master of Cha-Sephi's h Mind, protected Rhedi and Ofman k, and that powerful Protection fecured them fufficiently against all Events. As for Haffein , his Happiness, and the little Jealousy he gave, supported him perhaps as much, as the Favour he was in with some Women, less however on his own Account, and of the Services he was in a Condition to do, than for the Sake of the Persons

who had a Friendship for him.

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Two Women, among others, made a shining Figure at Court, and by the Distinction which Cha-Sephi honoured them with, gave a great Advantage to Sevagi and to his Party. The one, named Fatmé a, was Roxana's Daughter, and Mirza-Haddi's Sister: A Princess who was once extremely beautiful; and though she had past the Prime of her Age was yet, on fome Days, very handsome. She was neither tall nor short, but well-shaped, and every way graceful; she had a noble Gait, an acute and delicate Wit; she was of amiable Conversation, a good Mistress, a tender and constant Friend; being extremely moved at Quarrels and Difputes; she avoided giving Occasion to any; she lost no Friends but with Grief, and always by their own Fault; she loved doing Service, and feized with Zeal all Opportunities for it; she was both high-spirited and meek, sad and gay, indolent and brisk, sometimes humorous; jea-

Lewis XV. 1 M. Orri. k M. D'Angivilliers. M. De St. Florentin. * Mad. De Charolois.

lous of her Rank, positive in her Sentiments, loving Pleasure, turning Day into Night, and Night into Day; and was thought to be privately married to a Lord of the highest Rank, who was said to have won her Heart many Years since, but whom, for some Reasons of State, she could never procure to be openly declared her Husband.

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The fecond, named Zelidab, was a long time united with Fatmé by the Ties of the most tender Friendship. Nothing could break their Union as long as Prince Sevage Zelida's Hufband was living. But after his Death she fell out all on a fudden with Fatmé, and these two Princesses, once inseparable, did absolutely cease feeing one another. This Alteration was the more furprizing, as Zelida, who had a great deal of Wit, could not be thought to be ignorant, how much it concerned both herfelf, and her Son, still very young, to be now more intimately than ever united with Fatmé. But as the was governed by Nargum, the first of his Family who made any Figure, and in whom the had intirely placed her Confidence, the thought and acted only by his Instigation. He hated Fatmé, whose Ascendant he dreaded, and to whom he was not acceptable; and he found Means to inspire Zelida with his own Sentiments. Nargum, though born with Wit and Talents, was not sufficiently acquainted with the Humours of the Court, and imagin'd that he could succeed in the most difficult Undertakings, without any other Assistance but his own Knowledge, and without any Support but the Rank and Credit of Zelida. He thereits,

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fore thought it beneath himself, to consult others and take their Advice, and to unite together all the Friends of Zelida's Family in such Circumstances, as deeply concerned the Interests, either of Zelida, or of her Son. The too great Ascendant this Man, who was but little esteemed, had gained over Zelida, and the Sentiment with which he had inspired her, cooled the Friendship of Fatmé and of other powerful Friends; and the ill-timed Steps he made her take in such Circumstances as were of the utmost Importance to young Savagi, impaired the Credit of that Princess, and lessened the Esteem she had gained at Court.

Zelida, born of a Family extremely illustrious by being match'd with Persons of high Rank, and by the most distinguished Employments, had a great deal of Wit, was of a proud Character, but a good Heart. Very much addicted to her Religion, she performed most scrupuloufly all the Duties of it, and had no Manner of Taste for noisy Pleasures; she knew how to render herself amiable according to Time and Circumstances: Her Thoughts were witty, and fhe expressed them with Delicacy; she was amufing, loved to fpend high, fupported her Rank with Dignity, was eafily prepoffetfed, and never fuffered herself to be undeceived: She was ambitious, jealous of the Prince's Favour, knowing how to preferve it; quick at undertaking, constant in the Execution; fometimes little, and too often hard-hearted towards her Servants; not enough upon her Guard against those who studied her weak Side, in order to lead her as they pleased; trusting and mistrusting the same Persons, often without well knowing why: She was but little grateful, and less generous. She had brown Eyes inclining to black, and something deep, a Countenance proud or kind, according to the Persons she spoke to, but most generally rough; a full Face, a beautiful Mouth, a charming Smile, a Complexion somewhat reddish, her Breast, Arms and Hands of an exquisite Beauty, a clumsy Shape, a heavy and ungenteel Gait, a piercing Voice,

and an absolute way of speaking.

Whilft she was the Widow of a young Perfian c Lord, with whom she liv'd but three Years, her Beauty and Wit touch'd the Heart of Savagid; he made Love to her a long Time, and being obliged to use a great Caution with regard to Ali-Homajoue, he did not marry her but till after that Prince's Death, who certainly would not have given his Confent to that Match. She was about thirty-fix Years old, when Savagi gave her, together with his Hand, the Rank and Title of a Princess. Their Union proved one of the happiest in the World: Zelida repaid with the greatest Love, the extreme Tenderness of Savagi, who renouncing for her fake all other Women, loved only her to his very Death, and gave her in that last Moment the strongest Proofs of his Af-This tender Couple lived together fection. about thirteen Years, and of all the Fruits of their Marriage they could keep only one Prince, who was fo much the dearer to them, as it had been a very difficult Task to rear him up. His Mother doated upon him, and as from the Moment he was born she had been used to tremble

Duke of Orleans.

for his Life, the slightest Indisposition he labour'd under struck her with deadly Fears.

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Prince Sevagi, fince his Marriage, used to fpend the best Part of the Year at a beautiful Seat of his, about ten Leagues distant from Ifpahan f. The Castle was an ancient Building, the Outfide of which had no great Appearance; but the Infide was most fumptuous by the prodigious Sums Sevagi had spent to beautify and adorn it. A good Taste appeared in all the Apartments, the Disposition of which was no less convenient than well contrived. As that Castle was situated in a marshy Ground, the Air of it was not very healthful; but the Delight, which the Possessor of it knew to procure, and the Pleasure of Hunting, which an extensive Park, abounding with Game, afforded, drew thither continually a Concourse of good Com-The Air of Magnificence which appeared in that House, shewed the Wealth and Grandeur of Sevagi, and the Attention his Slaves had to make every thing answerable to the Generosity and noble Sentiments of their Master, gained him the Love and Respect of every one, and to them an universal Esteem.

Thither Cha-Sephi s went now and then to divert himself from the Fatigues of a trouble-some Court. It was not the Monarch that came to Sevagi's House, but a tender Friend, charm'd to pass some Days with him and Zelida, and with a small Number of chosen Ladies and Courtiers. Hunting, which that Prince was passionately fond of, employed him Part of the Day; in the Evening Gaming and Supper af-

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e Paris. f Lewis XV.

forded him new Pleasures, which used to be continued till pretty late in the Night. There the Sophi h being pleased because he was free, appeared gay and amiable, he enliven'd the Conversation, was pleased to join with the Spright-liness of Zelida and Fatmé, was careful to direct his Speech to every one, and to set this whole little Court at Ease. Ismael-Beg, though Sevagi's intimate Friend, was seldom of those Parties, either on the Account of his advanced

Age, or of his Health.

During ten Years, that is to fay, as long as Sevagi lived, Cha-Sephi never failed to go every Year feveral Times to that Castle: But since that Prince's Death he went thither but feldom, which is a strong Proof of the Love and Esteem he had for him. It is true, however, that if Zelida, when a Widow, had led a lefs retired Life; if her Son's Interest had made her sensible of the Necessity there was that she should still continue to appear, and make a Figure at Court, in order to introduce that young Prince there; if during the Sophi's last Journies to her House she had not avoided making one at Supper; or rather, if Nargum, an ill-contriving and ignorant Steward, had not, by his infolent Behaviour, and an ill-tim'd Niggardliness, given Discontent to some of Cha-Sephi's Attendants, who, without being of a certain Rank, had nevertheless a great Credit with him; it is true, I fay, that if it had not been for all, or fome of these Reasons, there was Room to hope, that this Prince, who tenderly loved both the Mother and the Son, would have continued those Parties of Pleasure. But Means were found to make

The King. | Cardinal De Fleury.

make him grow out of Conceit with them, and foon after, to turn his Steps another Way.

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The Sophi was not always taken up with Pleasure during his Stay at Sevagi's House; fometimes he locked himself up with him Zelida and Fatmé, and fometimes with either of them: and in those precious Moments they obtain'd from the Monarch whatever their own Interest, or that of their Friends and Dependants made them ask; but it was done with Difcretion, and almost always with the Athemadoulet's k Confent, which they took Care to obtain beforehand, or to procure afterwards. It was in those little Councils that they obtain'd for the young Prince, Sevagi's Son, the Survivorship of his Father's Employments and Governments; and that they found Means to have Nadir 1, Zelida's Son by her first Husband, called back from his Banishment, who, by an Imprudence, which his Youth alone could excuse, had entered into a Conspiracy, the Defign of which was to procure the Ruin of 1/mael-Beg m. It was in those private Meetings, that the Foundations were laid long beforehand, for the Removal of Cofroun, and that fuch Strokes were levelled at him, as prov'd fo much the more effectual, as he was ignorant of them; and here also it was, that by Ismael-Beg's Advice, who had some Thoughts to refign, Measures were taken to put Prince Sevagi at the Head of the Administration. Finally, it was in those Parties of Pleasure, that they imagined

^{*} The Prime Minister, i. e. the Cardinal.

Marquis D'Antin.

Cardinal De Fleury.

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Lewis XV.

imagined they observed in Cha-Sephi a rising Inclination for the fair Sex, and that left he should confult only his Eyes and his Heart, to raise to the Rank of a Favourite a young and beautiful Woman, and for that very Reason ambitious and capable to govern him, they thought they could do nothing better for their common Interest, than to determine his Inclination in Behalf of Retima °. who had none of those Qualifications they dreaded, but was a Woman, who could be depended upon, and whom they made promife that she should be content with the Honours of the Handkerchief, and would attempt nothing with the Sophi without the Concurrence of those Persons, whom she knew, were in Possession of that Prince's Confidence and Esteem. A most fingular Convention, by which Retima bought very dear a shew of Credit, and the Honour of making a Figure by Cha-Sephi's Side in those Parties, to which none but his most intimate Friends were admitted; but a Convention, which she kept most religiously, as long as she continued in Favour. Her Faithfulness in this deserves so much the more to be commended, that it is perhaps fingle in its kind, and that she was no Doubt fensible, that there are some Moments of Triumph, in which a Favourite may dare any Thing, and ask any Thing from the Sovereign, even from the least courteous towards the Ladies, especially if she be his first Inclination. But it is probable that Retima's Passions turned entirely to the Advantage of the Heart only, and that she looked upon Cha-Sephi less as a Monarch, than as a Lover to whom

[·] Lewis XV. P Madem. De Mailli.

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whom she might entirely addict herself; and accordingly she had a real Love for that Prince.

Retima, Wife to Usbeck a Persian Lord, was neither young nor handsome; she was near thirty-five Years old, had a long Face and Nose, a large and high Forehead, her Cheeks something flat, a large Mouth, her Complexion brown rather than fair, two large Eyes, pretty fine, very brisk, but something rough in her Looks; her Voice was coarfe, and her Neck and Arms ugly; she was reckon'd to have a fine Leg, which perhaps was owing to her Leanness. She was tall, and walked with a free and deliberate Air, but with nothing agreeable nor grand in it, though she used to dress in an high Taste, and with an infinite Art, wherein she had a particular Talent, which the Ladies at Court endeavoured in vain to imitate. She had a great deal of Wit and Probity, and little or no Ambition: She was amufing, gay, of an even Temper, a sure, generous and compassionate Friend, endeavouring to ferve others, but by indirect Means, not being able to do it herself, without running the Danger of losing the Sophi's Fayour, the Friendship of those Persons to whom she was indebted for it, and above all, the Protection of Ismael-Beg', who being sensible of the Necessity there was of suffering a Favourite, had been so well advised, as not to disprove the Choice that had been made of Retima, who, he knew, was not of a Character to endeavour to deprive him of the Ascendant he had gained over the Sophi. It

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French. 9 M. De Mailli. 6 Cardinal De Fleuri.

It has been furmized that this Passion was not real, and ferved only to cover a fecret Commerce of Cha-Sephi with a Sister of Retima. named Zachi ", lately married with a young Lord of the Court. Zachi was tall, not more provided with Charms than Retima, but younger: She had an infinite deal of Wit, was haughty, enterprizing, envious, revengeful, wanting to govern, and to make herfelf be feared; having few Friends, and little capable to make any, minding nothing but her own Interest; having no other Views but to make the best Advantage of the Favour she enjoyed, wherein the would have succeeded, if Death had not stopped her in the Beginning of her Career. In a Word, she would have proved a dangerous Favourite. She died in Child-bed, and was but little lamented; there were fome Suspicions, that the too great Favour she enjoyed, and her restless and ambitious Temper did not contribute a little to shorten her Days. Her Loss made Cha-Sephi shed Tears for several Days. Tender Retima, who had an excellent Heart. affifted him effectually in that fad Office, and bewailed her Sister's Death sincerely. As the Sophi did very much lament for the Loss of Zachi, and took a particular Care of the Child the had brought into the World, these were thought sufficient Reasons to believe that he loved her entirely.

The Pleasures which this Death had interrupted, took again their usual Course. Hunting, several Journies made sometimes to Sevagi's House, sometimes to other Country Seats not far distant from the capital City, the ten-

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der Inclination and endearing Cares of Retima. who always attended Cha-Sephi, the Attention which Fatme and Zelida had to divert him, and above all those Suppers he was used to take in those delicious Recesses, accessible only to his most intimate Friends, made him forget Zachi. Those Recesses were the Work of the Sophi; without being entirely separated from his Palace, they had nevertheless no other Communication with it, but what was absolutely neceffary for his Attendants to come and wait upon him. A fecret Door contrived in Cha-Sephi's Apartments, gave him Liberty, whenever he had a Mind, to go to those Recesses with those he was pleased to admit. Every thing there was ingeniously and conveniently disposed. In order to give the Reader a pretty exact Notion of it, we think we cannot do better than to transcribe the Description of it left us by an Author of those Times, who is but little known.

"It was, says he (a), a little Temple, in which nocturnal Feasts were frequently cele- brated to the Honour of Bacchus and Venus.

" The Sophi was the High-Priest, Retima the

" High-Priestes: The rest of the sacred Band was composed of lovely Women, and cour-

"teous Gentlemen, worthy to be initiated in

"those Mysteries. There, by a Number of exquisite Libations, and by several Hymns

(a) The History of the several Religions introduced into Persia since the Conquest made of it by Alexander the Great, to the present Time. By Kodgia.—
N. B. This Note is in the Original; but placed there with no other View perhaps, but to put the Reader upon a wrong Scent.

" to the Glory of Bacchus, they endeavoured " to render the Goddess of Cythera propitious, " to whom they made afterwards from Time to Time precious Offerings. The Libations " were made with the scarcest Wines, and the " most delicious Messes were the Victims: " And even often, namely on the most so-" lcmn Days, these Messes were prepared by " the Hands of the High-Priest. Comus was " the Steward of those Feasts, and Momus pre-" fided there. No Slave was fuffered to diffurb " those august Ceremonies, nor to enter the innermost Part of the Temple, but on the " Moment when the Priest and Priestesses, " loaded at last with the divine Favours, fell " into an Extafy, the Fulness of which proved " the Greatness of their Zeal, and declared " the Presence of the Gods. Then all was " finished: Those Favourites of the Gods were " carried off with the utmost Respect, and the "Gates of the Temple were shut.—There were " certain Days in the Year, which were facred " to the God Bacchus only, and in which " Comus also was Steward. These Days, " which may be called the leffer Festivals, were " those on which the High-Priest admitted in-" to the Temple Sevagi, Fatmé, Zelida, and " fome others, in whose Presence, as being Profane, the leffer Mysteries only were celebrated; and indeed, far from being of the of fortunate Number of those, who were in-" trufted with the effential and important Functions of the Worship, they were hardly worthy the little Share they were permitted " to take in it."

Whilst Cha-Sephi indulged himself in Pleafure, Ismael-Beg and Cosrou were busy about very important Affairs. The unexpected Death of Mahmoud, King of Thibet , put all Asia in in Motion. Every Power wished to see that Throne filled by a Prince on whom it might depend, and it was particularly the Interest of Persia not to lose so proper an Opportunity of putting again on the Head of Chekour Fatherin-Law to Cha-Sephi b, a Crown he had for-

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Thibet is a large and fruitful Country, fituated in Great Tartary. It borders on the Kingdom of Zogathay c, and on the Empires of Rufsia, Mogol a and China . It is divided into Great and Little Thibet. The Grandees of the Kingdom have an absolute Power over the People, who are Slaves. The whole Strength of the Country confifts in Cavalry: The Government is mixed; the King can do nothing without the Concurrence and Confent of the Grandees; but he has a Right to dispose of Employments and Governments, which however cannot be possessed but by Thibetians. That Crown has always been elective, and is fold to the best Bidder. It is then that the Thibetians, who are: naturally covetous and greedy of Money, causetheir Votes to be bought very dear, receiving Presents from all Hands, promising their Votes. to all the Candidates, declaring this Day for one, To-morrow for another, and even often changing Sides more than once in one and the fame

^{*} Cardinal De Fleuri and Chauvelin. y Augustus-King of Poland. ² Europe. ² Stanislaus. ^b Lewis XV ^c Prussia. ^d Germany. ^c The Key says Spain; but that must be a Blunder.

fame Day. When the King is to be chosen, the Custom is, that every Lord must repair with a certain Number of Troops to the Place appointed for the general Assembly: These different Bodies being united, compose a numerous Army designed to secure the Electors against the Attempts of any ill designing Candidate, and to afford him, who is elected, a quick and effectual Means to reduce by Force of Arms those

who might be against him.

It was many Years fince Mahmoud, Raja of Labor , had been elected King of that Country. He had hardly taken Possession of his new Dominions, but being emboldened by the Proximity of his Principality of Labor, whence he could eafily get powerful Supplies, he attempted to fretch his Authority farther than any of his Predeceffors had done, and to oppress the Liberty of the Grandees. He was even fo imprudent, as to attack, without any Pretence, the King of Jalekeldars, whose Youth he publickly despited. This injured King entered with an Army into Thibet, and being affifted by a discontented Party, he unthroned Mahmoud, who fled into his own Principality. At last having called together the Grandees of the Kingdom, he caused them to elect Chekour b, one of the most powerful Thibetian Lords, and who was intirely in his Interest. But the King of Jalekelder being young, eager after Conquests, and, like another Alexander, designing to carry his victorious Arms as far as he could, was at last intirely defeated at Lotupvai. Immediately Mahmoud enters again into Thi-

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Felester of Saxony. Sweden. A Stanislaus.

bet with a numerous Army, attacks and beats Chekour, and forces him to fly in his Turn. This unfortunate King thought himself happy to be able to procure an Afylum in Persia", where he spent his Days peaceably till the Death of Mahmoud, when the Athemadoulet 1 thought proper to take an Advantage of it; and under the specious Pretence of arming in favour of Cha-Sephi's Father-in-Law, he endeavoured to execute some Projects of a much greater Importance. And indeed, if we may judge any thing from the Conduct of I/mael-Beg m, on this Occasion, there is no reason to think that his only View was to fet the Crown again on the Head of Chekour, but rather to fecure an Opportunity which offered itself most naturally of kindling, by thwarting the Defigns. of the Grand-Mogul", a War, the secret End. of which was, to give, at the Expence of that Emperor, considerable Dominions to a Son of the Emperor of China, and to enlarge those of the King of Necbal P, with both of whom Persia 4 had for that Purpose entered into a firict Alliance, but more still, to procure confiderable Advantages to Cha-Sephir.

Before we give a particular Account of that War, and of the Consequences that attended it, we think it proper to relate what happened in Thibet with regard to the Election of a

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The Mogul's, being seconded by Russia, did strongly recommend to the Thibetian Lords the Some

k France. The Cardinal Prime Minister. m Cardinal de Fleury. n The Emperor Charles VI. 2 The King of Spain. P The King of Sardinia. 2 France:
Lewis XV. 5 The Emperor.

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Son of Mahmoud', who had succeeded his Father in the Principality of Lahor w, situated in the Mogul's Empire, and depending on it; besides which, that Prince had married one of his Nieces; these seemed Reasons sufficient to justify the Part he acted. In order to support more effectually the Party of this Candidate, the Mogul and Russia caused each an Army to march towards the Borders of Thibet *, which was a very proper Method to make fure of the Votes of the Grandees, who saw they had the worst to fear from two Princes who petitioned Arms in Hand. Ismael-Beg, more moderate in Appearance, caused it to be represented to all the Courts of Afia, that it was an odious Thing thus to constrain the Liberty of the Thibetians; but at the same time he caused their Votes to be bought with the Money of Persa, by an able Emissary he had in Thibet. This Proceeding, which was more fuitable to the Character of the Thibetians, added to Promises which Perka made to affift them powerfully, in case they were attacked, and to the Inclination they had for Chekour 2, who was born among them, and had already governed them, produced all the Effect, which Ismael-Beg had expected. Nothing more was wanted but that Prince's Presence, to remove all the Obstacles that might remain still. Great Preparations are making in Persia for Chekour's Journey, and whilst a numerous Retinue is going towards Thibet, imagining, with the Publick, that they are accompanying the Prince, he, being disguised, takes a contrary Road, and arrives happily in Thibet.

The late King Augustus. w Saxony. Roland. Furope. Standlaus.

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Thibet, attended only with one trufty Man. He is immediately elected by the Grandees of the Kingdom; one only, who did not vote for him, left the Assembly, and retired to fome Distance from the Camp of Election, with the Troops he had brought with him, at the Head of which he proclaimed Mahmoud's Son. That Event would not have been attended with any dangerous Consequence for Chekour, if putting himself immediately at the Head of the Lords Army, as he was pressed to do, he had marched directly up to that Traitor, whom he would certainly have cut in Pieces. But whether it was that he was unwilling to mark his Accession to the Crown by the spilling of Blood, or through Indolence, or through Contempt for the Rebels, whose small Number did not seem formidable to him, he made not the least Motion, and gave the opposite Party Time to gather Strength, and to put Mahmoud's Son at its Head: This Imprudence cost him his Crown a second time; the greatest Part of his Followers forfook him, and joined with his Competitor. The small Number of those who continued faithful to him, could not withstand a superior Force: Chekour was obliged to fly, and to take Sanctuary with those who were willing to follow him, in a Frontier Town of Thibet, where he was immediately besieged.

This bad News was foon carried into-Persia; the whole Kingdom, who looked upon the Affair of Thibet as their own, declared loudly, that it concerned the Sophy's Glory, and the Honour of the Nation to support Che-

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kour. Ismael-Beg c, or rather Cofrond, being delighted with such Discourses, which justified before all Afia c, the great warlike Preparations that were making, caused a small Corps of Troops to take the Road to Thibet, giving to understand, that it would be followed from time to time by others, not being willing, faid he, to fend at once a great Supply for fear of giving Umbrage to the neighbouring Powers, with whom it was proper to keep up a good Understanding; and it was besides not prudent to remove the Forces of the Kingdom to a great Distance, at a Time when the Great Mogul!, who was for good Reasons suspected to have Views contrary to the Tranquility of Persia, was in Arms.

The first Column of that Supply arrived, without any Accident at the Capital City of the Kingdom of Balek g, the Sovereign of which was in Alliance with Persia. Onumarh, the Sophy's Minister at the Court of Balek, a bold and enterprising Man, whom his Zeal rather than Prudence guided, puts himself immediately at the Head of that Column, and, against the Advice of the Commanding Officer, who would have waited for the remainder of the Troops, he marches to the befieged City, with a Design to enter it. Being come in sight of the Besiegers Lines, Impatience seizes him, and with an handful of Men, brave indeed, and who presented themselves with Courage before the Enemy, he attempted to force a Passage; but he lost a great many Men, and was killed by exposing himself as a mere Sol-

c Cardinal de Fieury. d Chauvelin. Europe. F The Emperor. B Denmark. Denmark.

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dier. The Commanding Officer, who had but too well foreseen that ill Success, made his Retreat, and returned in good Order to the Capital of Balek, where the rest of the Supply arrived a few Days after. A fecond Attempt was then resolved upon, but it was thought proper to endeavour a Passage by Artifice, rather than Force. They marched to the Enemy; but it was to no Purpose they employed all forts of Stratagems: They would have been obliged to retire shamefully, had not a young Officer about twenty Years old, offered, and he engaged his Life for it, to cause Part of the Troops to enter the City, by carrying them in the Night-time in Boats by the River that washes the Walls of that City. That Offer was accepted, and the Officer, notwithstanding the Fire of the Besiegers, in whom the Noise of the Oars raised Suspicions, put happily his Troops into the Town, came back the fame way, and with the fame Happiness, and joined the main Body. That fmall Supply revived the Spirits of the Besieged, and being in hopes of receiving some more confiderable Succours, they defended themselves vigorously: But not being relieved, they lost all Hopes. Chekour himself, being sensible from the Condition to which the Town was reduced, that they should be very soon obliged to open the Gates to the Enemy, and having no reason to trust to the Generosity of the Chief's of the Besiegers, whom he knew to have a Design particularly against him, left the Town in the Night-time two Days before the Capitulation, in Company with a trufty Officer, who knew the

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the Country perfectly well, and after avoiding many Dangers, and by feveral By-Roads, he arrived at last with him at Samarcande 1, a City of Zagathay m, where, by the King's Order, he had all the Honours due to his Rank paid to him. He continued fome time in that City, and left it only to return into Persia, where he led a more peaceable and happier Life than he would have done upon the Throne of Thibet; by the Peace that was made foon after, the Title of King of that Country was continued to There were even feveral other Marks of Distinction added to it sufficient to satisfy that Prince, who had but little Ambition; but which proved to Persia a full and very real Indemnification (a) for the great Expences which Cha-Sephi, under a Pretence of supporting his Father-in-Law, made in the War which he declared to the Mogul n.

When Chekour left Samarcande, he was fifty nine Years old. He was a Man of a middling Size, a clumfy Shape, high Shoulders, a full Face, an agreeable Air, a pretty plain Behaviour, by which he had not sufficiently that awful and majestick Air, which is required in Princes. He had a good Heart, and a sweet Temper, with a generous Disposition, which his Fortune did not suffer him to indulge. He was no Warrior, and less ambitious, but he behaved himself with a little too much Familiarity. Differing very much in this from his Consort the Queen, a haughty ambitious Woman, constantly regretting her former Grandeur, whilst

¹ Koningsberg. m Prussia.

⁽a) The Cession of the Dutchies of Lorrain and Bar.

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he preferred Retirement and Liberty before the Pomp of a Court. That Prince's Life abounded with Misfortunes. Twice he faw himself feated on the Throne of Thibet; the first time by the Authority of a victorious King, joined with the Discontent of the Thibetians against Mahmoud. The fecond Time, by the Affistance of his Son-in-Law the Sophy. Twice he was forced to renounce the Crown, once by the Defeat of him who had made him King, and once by his own Indolence, and excessive Security; in a word, by his own Fault. Thus Fortune used this Prince, worthy on the Account of his good Qualities, to have met with a better Fate, but in reality more proper to lead a private Life, than to govern.

Persia having declared War against the Mogol P, the Sophi q fent two great Armies into the Field, the one to act upon the Indust, and the other in those Countries which the Ganges' waters. Boulaki', at the Head of the former, having passed the Indus, took immediately, without much Resistance, a pretty considerable Fort a, and advancing farther into the Country, he besieged Doltabat w, a strong Place, which did not make so noble a Desence as might have been expected. Notwithstanding the Obstacles which the Nature of the Ground put in his Way, and a continual Rain, he carried on the Works with Vigour. The Soldiers, animated by his Presence and Example, went to the Attacks, tho' to their Waists in the Water, with a Zeal and Courage worthy the greatest Com-

mendations

The Emperer. 9 The French King. The Rhine.
The Po. The Duke of Berwick. Fort Khil.
W Philipsburg.

mendations. Boulaki, being Master of the greatest Part of the Out-works, was preparing to attack the Body of the Place, when he was kill'd by a Cannon-Ball, in the midst of his Children and of some Officers, the very Moment, that being led by his brifk and boifterous Temper, or rather by his ill Fate, he was examining from the flanting fide of a Trench, and without being covered, the Effects of some Batteries he had ordered to be erected. Cha-Sephi lost in him a brave, experienced, active and vigilant General, who caused a strict Discipline to be observed, and was of an uncommon Honesty. The Soldiers lamented his Death, but were not difcouraged by it: Sujab * and Ibbi , his Lieutenant-Generals, who were very much below him in point of Capacity, gained all the Glory of this Siege, the Place furrendering to them foon after Boulaki's Death. Sujab, a Man grown old in the Trade of War, and who had been the Artisan of his own Fortune, had the Direction of what is called in Europe Military Architecture, which however he did not understand thoroughly well; he was undetermined, never forming to a fixed Plan, but acting as Occasion offered: He often committed Blunders, and did not know how to improve the Advantages which his own Situation, or that of the Enemy might give him.

Ibbi, the Brother of Zelida², whom we have already mentioned, had a great deal of Wit, and an extensive Knowledge of other Matters than such as relate to War, which he would however make the World believe that he understood

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* M. D'Asfeld. Countess of Toulouse. y M. De Noailles.

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derstood perfectly well, perhaps because he had followed that Trade a long while; yet, upon the whole, he was but an indifferent Warrior, a great deal too cautious, a Defect, which as it gives the Soldiers Room to think their General is not free from fear, so it deprives them of that Confidence which is the Soul of an Army, and the most sure Expectation of Victory. He was short-fighted, an other Defect, which in the most critical Circumstances had made him take the Shadow for the Body. He was of a tall and proper Size, extremely brisk and obstinate, but little esteemed by the Troops; otherwise a cunning Courtier, and happy. The Command of Boulaki's Army was committed to these two Generals, who being jealous of each other, did not act in concert, and performed nothing during the Remainder of that Campaign, nor the next.

In the third, to prevent the Prejudice, which the Operations might suffer from the Misunderstanding of the two Generals, Ibbi was sent to the Army on the Ganges 2, and Seif b, one of the Generals of that Army, was ordered to go and take Ibbi's Place. Notwithstanding that wife Precaution, and though Sujah and Seif agreed pretty well together, yet the Sophi's Arms made no great Progress on the Indus, the Mogol having fent against them a great General. His Name was Eveneg : Grown old in the Trade of Arms, and having made War in several Countries, and with different Nations, he had gained a very great Experience, and juftly deserved the Reputation of the greatest Warrior of

Rhine. b Marshal De Cogni. C The Prince Eugene.

of his Age. He was of an illustrious Family, and supported the Nobleness of his Blood with an uncommon Merit. He had a most generous Soul, an exalted Mind, and such a Valour, as made him be adored by the Soldiers, dreaded and admired by the Enemies. Some Disgust they had given him in his Youth at the Court of Persia, obliged him to go and ask for Employment from the Grand-Mogol, who received him with open Arms, and employed him immediately. His first Exploits declared what he would once be, and as soon as he was promoted to high Decrees, he gave Persia frequent Occasions to repent, that she had not attached him to herself.

All that Sujah and Seif could do against a Warrior so formidable, and who was continually using Stratagems, was to keep the Conquests, and to post themselves always so advantageously, or to intrench their Camp fo well, as not to be forced to fight. But confidering the desperate Condition the Mogol's Affairs were in, by the confiderable Losses he sustained in the Provinces on the Ganges h, it was a Master-stroke in Eveneg i, to reduce the Persians to keep on the Defensive, even in their own Conquests. For if the Persians had had as great Successes on the Indus k, as they had on the Ganges, the Mogol had been ruined. It is true indeed, that this Prince entered into that War against Eveneg's Advice, who was far from thinking, like his Master, that Persia was a contemptible Enemy. This Emperor's Name was Cha-Ressinc-Frola. We shall give hereafter an Account of his Perfon, his Dominions, and his Government.

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Gemehid was an old Warrior of fourscore Years, who had gained a great Reputation by his Courage, which an uncommon Happiness, and a great deal of Presumption contributed fometimes not a little to render rash, rather than by an Experience grounded upon a deep Study of his Profession, upon which he entered very young, and with a very small Fortune, and in which he found Means to get immense Ri-This was the General appointed to command on the Ganges. He had in a manner sollicited for that Employment; and it was something merry enough to fee that old Man quite hoary, in a warlike Harness, make at his Departure fuch Rodomontadoes as would hardly be excused in a young Man. His Orders were to join his Troops with those of the King of Necbal m, and to attack the Mogol vigorously on one Side, whilst the Chinese " should attack him on the other. The Junction was made, and this Army, which the King of Necbal commanded in Chief, being become formidable, was in a Condition to act gloriously on the offensive. Gemehid behaved very well; but the Infirmities inseparable from a great Age, which were still encreased by the Fatigues of a Camp, threw him into a Sickness, of which he died towards the End of the Campaign, in a City not far distant from the Army, and, as they fay, in the fame Room where he was born. The King of Necbal seemed to lament his Loss, but in reality he was not forry to be rid of a Man, who stunned him continually with boasting of his Capacity, and opposed all his Schemes, with so much the less Regard, as the Troops

Marshal De Villars. m Sardinia. n Spaniards.

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chief Strength of the combined Army.

Nesser o and Seif P, Lieutenant-Generals under Gemchid, took after his Death the Command of the Persian Army. They were both brisk, covetous of Glory, winking a little too much at military Discipline, and for that very Reason beloved by the Soldiers, very capable to perform what is stilled a bold Action, excellent Under-Officers, and at the Head of an inconsiderable Corps; but Men, who had not Heads strong enough to consider the immense Particulars that relate to the Conduct of a great Army: For the rest, they were brave, and acted in Concert for the Good of the common Cause.

Nessir had, in the Course of this War, a little Misfortune, which was drawn upon him by his Obstinacy, in not fortifying, whatever might be faid to him, a Post exposed to the Enemy, and which he afferted to be secure both by the Nature and the Disposition of the Ground, and by which nevertheless he was surprized in the Night-time, and forced in his own Quarters. His Confidence was even fuch, that having one Evening vifited and fecured all the other Posts, he gave himself over to sleep in the same Manner, and with the same Tranquillity, as if he had been in his own Palace in the middle of Ispahan 9. He had hardly rested two Hours, but he was started out of his Sleep by a great Noise of Arms, and by the Cries of those who were fighting. He gets up immediately with a Defire to run whither Danger called him; but the Attack was so sudden and so well conducted, that

[·] Marshal De Broglio. P Marshal De Cogni. 4 Paris.

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but ed, hat that the Mogolians ' had already penetrated to his very Tent; so that, though still in that Disorder of a Man, who is just awaked out of his Sleep, he is obliged to sly, too happy to save his Person at the Expence of his Equipage. This little Missortune, which was a natural Consequence of his Presumption and Imprudence, gave Occasion for some Days to the Soldiers Jests, who are always ready to ridicule every Thing, without respecting even their General; but as his Courage was not called into Question, his Reputation did not suffer from that Missortune.

It was about this Time that Cha-Sephi, to reward the Services which Sujah, Ibbi, Neffir, and Seif, did him in the Armies, fent to each of them on the same Day the great Calaat.

Tho' the Mogol had fent his choicest Troops to the Ganges ", and had given the Command of them to Semir w, a brave and experienced General, yet they were roughly used there. Frequent Actions between Detachments, in which the Mogolian Troops were almost always worsted, Defiles forced, several Towns taken one after another, opened to the Enemies a Way towards the most beautiful Provinces of the Empire, and it was so much the more probable that they would make themselves Masters of them in a little Time, that Semir, having engaged a Battle, was killed the very Moment that the Ardour of his Troops, and a kind of Disorder in those of the Enemy, who till then had fought very bravely, gave him Hopes of a compleat Victory. Notwithstanding the Care

^{*}Austrians. *Lewis. XV. ti. e. created them Marshals of France. u Into Italy. w Count Merci.

that was taken to conceal his Death from the Troops, they were foon acquainted with it. Being then frightened, they did no longer attack with the same Vigour; that Moment of a Relaxation, revived the Courage of the combined Army; it fell with Fury upon the Mogolians, who being discouraged, made but a weak

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Resistance, and took to their Heels.

The glorious Success of this Campaign, together with the Progress, which the Chinese " made on their Side, determined the Fate this War was likely to be attended with. Sigoken x, who fucceeded to Semir, could not retrieve the Affairs of the Mogolians y, who were driven back from Post to Post. The King of Necbal 2 was present every where with an uncommon Activity and Valour. His Ability, at an Age in which a Man may want it without Shame, excelled that of the oldest Generals, and was the Admiration both of the Officers and the Soldiers. All reckoned to march to a fure Victory when headed by him. It was with fuch a Spirit, so flattering for a General, and of so good an Omen, that the Battle of Orixa a was fought: A famous Battle, which proved fo much the more bloody, as the two Armies attacked each other in separate Bodies, which succeeded one another by Turns, so that it may be faid, there happened as many Battles, as there were Bodies that engaged. Sigoken did all that could be expected from a great General, and the Mogolians, as though this had been their last Effort, fought like desperate Men. But at last, after a long Resistance, which cost them

w Spaniards. * Count Konigseg. y Austrians.
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them a prodigious Number of Men, they yielded the Field of Battle to the Enemy, who being extreamly fatigued, and having also lost a great many Men, fuffered them to make their Retreat without molesting them, being content with an Advantage they had bought very dear.

It was in this Action, that a Persian Officer of Distinction b, leading his Troop to the Enemy, had the Misfortune to fall down, and to be for a confiderable Time trampled under the Feet of Men and Horses: He was at last taken up in a deplorable Condition, but which was not attended with any bad Consequence. was one of the most handsome Men that could be feen, and was charged with being as much in Love with himself as a Woman; which occafioned it to be faid, that trembling for his Beauty, he had chosen to fall, though with an almost unavoidable Danger of being killed, or at least disfigured.

Since this Battle there happened nothing ma-The combined Army approached the ftrong Towns in fuch Dispositions, and with such Preparations as foreboded some Siege of Consequence. But some Propositions of Peace, which were made at the same Time, procured a Suspension of Arms. However, the Troops continued both on the Ganges c, and on the Indus d, till the Moment that the Powers at War being come to an Agreement, called reciprocally their Armies back, and Things were left in. the Condition they were in till the Treaty of

Peace could be figned.

Befides E

The Dule De la Trimouille. The Po, i. e. in d The Rhine. Italy.

Besides the considerable Losses which the Emperor of Mogol e had suffered, during this War, and which made him wish to see the End of it, there were other Considerations not less proper to incline him to a Peace. This Prince was fifty-one Years old, and of a weak Constitution. He had no other Posterity but Daughters, nor did the Age of the Empress, who was near forty-five, give him much Hope ever to have a Son, who might raise his Family, which was to become extinct at his Death. Besides this, the Fear of leaving to the Princesses f, who were still young, a ruinous War to carry on, and perhaps also the Design of marrying the Eldest to some Prince, whom he might perfuade his Subjects to acknowledge for his Succeffor, wherein he would not expose himself to the Danger of being thwarted by those Powers, with whom he was actually at War; all these Motives together rendered him tractable.

After some preliminary Negociations between his Ministers and those of Persia 8, which were kept very secret for fear the Emperor of China h, and the King of Necbal , should raise some Difficulties which might delay the Success of the Treaty, the Articles were figned at Gehanabadk, the Seat of the Mogol's Empire. They amounted to That Chekour 1 should abdicate, and should nevertheless be acknowledged King of Thibet ", and keep the Title and Honours of King. That he should be put in peaceable Possession of the Principality of Tatta ", to enjoy it during his Life, and that after his Death, that Principality should be united in full Sovereignty

> The Archdutchesses. 8 France. Sardinia. k Vienna. Stanislaus.

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Sovereignty and for ever with the Crown of Perfia. That Mahthoud's Son o should be acknowledged King of Thibet by Chekour, and by all the Powers engaged in this War. That in order to indemnify the Prince of Tatta for the Sacrifice he made of his own Dominions for the Sake of Peace, he should have the Principality of Aracam P. That the Son of the Emperor of China 9 should be crowned King of Cochin-china and of the Countries dependent on That the King of Necbal . Should have the Territory of Ava and its Dependencies . That all the Conquests made by Persia in the Mogol's Dominions should be restored to him, except some Domains, the Property of which was yielded unto Persia. Finally, that Persia should be Guarantee of the famous Edict " by which the Mogol had settled the Succession to the Hereditary Dominions of his Family.

Such were the Events and the Conclusion of a War, out of which Cha-Resinc-Frola w, being reduced to the greatest Extremities, found Means happily to extricate himself, at the Expence of the Princes of Tatta and Aracam *: For the Sacrifice he made of the Kingdom of Cochin-china, and of the Territory of Ava, and their Dependencies, was less a Sacrifice, than a Necessity laid upon the Vanquished; since the Chinese r had entirely subdued Cochin-china, to the greatest Part of which they had ever a Claim; and fince on the other Side, the Kings of Necbal and Persia were Masters, not only of Ava, but also of the best Provinces of the Empire, which are

fituated

P Tuscany. · King Augustus II. Elector of Saxony. s Sardinia. t Part of 9 King of Spain. 1 Naples. the Milanese. " The Pragmatic Sanction. " The Em-* The Dukes of Lorrain and Tufperor Charles VI. cany. y Spaniards.

fituated about the Ganges 2. And besides, the Countries which the Mogol gave up, were fully ballanced by the Generosity of Persia, who restored to him all the Conquests she had made, and by the Dominions, the sull Property of which was given up to him by this Treaty: A more sure Title than his pretended Right to the

Dominions he yielded.

As foon as these Articles were figned, in which every Power, and especially the Grand Mogol found their Account; this Prince applied himself to the Conclusion of the Marriage of his eldest Daughter Nagar a, with Narsic, Prince of Aracam b. But Cha-Ressinc-Frolac, who still hoped to have a Son and Heir, obliged the new-married Couple to renounce the Crown of Mogol, in case a Son should be born to him: and it was stipulated by the same Deed, that in case Nagar had no Male Children, and her Sifter Remana d should have any, these, to the Exclusion of Nagar's Daughters, should alone have a Right to succeed to the Hereditary Estates of the Mogol, to which Nagar, as to what regarded herself personally, should never lay any Claim.

Cosrou, who could not be refused the Glory of procuring to Cha-Sephi, and to his Allies, very great Advantages by this Peace, was using all his Endeavours to make Persia reap the Fruits of his Labours, when he was put out of Favour at Court. He was charged with giving

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f Vienna.

g Cardinal De Fleury.

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Letters. Such was the Fate of an able Man, whose Fate was owing perhaps to a little Imprudence, but chiefly to the Credit of the Enemies of the Family of Mirza-Haddi h, who supported him, rather than to any Want of Honesty clearly proved.

Tamel i succeeded him in Post of First Secretary of State, and that of Keeper of the Sophi's Seals was given again to old Ibrahim k, who had

been deprived of it above fixteen Years.

Tamel, descended from a Family famous for politick Knowledge, had been long in fuch Employments as relate to the Finances, for which he was more proper than for the Post to which he was raifed, and in which he did not make the best Figure in the World. He had Wit, was laborious, quick, ambitious and jealous. He stuttered, which is a considerable Defect in a Man, who is obliged to confer daily with Foreign Ministers. To affist him in the difficult Functions of his Office, he had the Good-luck to meet with excellent Under-officers, who had a long time performed the particular Parts of it, and who were perfectly acquainted with the Intere its of Persia and of all the Foreign Powers. These Under-ministers, who are less exposed than the Great Ministers, to the Strokes of Envy, and are fo much the less in Danger of being removed, that their Places cannot be filled up but by Men of a very great Capacity, which cannot be acquired but by a long Experience; these, I say, are properly the Men of the State; the Ministers are changed, but they die in their Post. It seems therefore that a Minister ought

The Duke of Bourbon. M. Amelot. M. D'Aguesseau.

to have fome Regard for them, and look upon them in a Manner as his Seconds. But Tamel who was proud, jealous of his Rank, and who also bore a Grudge to one of these Men, because he had enjoy'd Cosrou's Confidence, laboured to ruin him. In order to play the furest Game, he charged him with keeping a suspicious Correspondence, especially with Cosrou, and with refusing to discover to him Secrets, which very much concerned the State, and with which, faid he, that Man was acquainted. Without any other Examination, that Man was taken up, and fo closely confined, that even his Wife was not able to get leave to fee him. Though fo fevere a Treatment might give Room to think that he was guilty, yet his Loyalty and Honesty were so universally known, that he was not even suspected of the slightest Fault, and his Misfortune was imputed only to the Jealoufy and bad Character of Tamel, whose Reputation suffered thereby very much, both with Strangers, and with his own Nation.

Soon after Cofrou was dismissed, Ismael-Beg thought of leaving the Helm, and persuaded the Sophi to make Choice of Sevagi¹ to fill his Place: It was impossible to make a better Choice, with regard to Honesty, Zeal for the Good of the State, and an excellent Judgment; and these are Qualities most essentially requisite in a Statesman; and perhaps the only Qualifications that are to be minded; as for the labouring Part, and the particular Detail of Affairs, it is well known that a Minister is always surrounded with Persons, who desire nothing more than to spare him that Trouble. It seems

1 The Count of Toulouse.

therefore sufficient for a Minister to be honest, to love his Country, to have fixed and certain Views, and above all a clear Head, and a sound and accurate Judgment; now these were Qualifications, which Sevagi could not without In-

justice be denied.

This Prince was born lazy, and was now of an Age in which Men think of taking some Rest, rather than engaging in Business; and besides, his Health, which was a little impaired, and the Death of his Brother Soliman m, which happened about a Year before this, made him make serious Reflexions; so that he resisted for a great while the strenuous and repeated Sollicitations of Ismael-Beg, and even of Cha-Sephi ". But as he loved the Sophi most tenderly, and could not, without Ingratitude, refuse him that Proof of his entire Devotion to him, he yielded. Measures were taken to declare him Athemadoulet o, at a Country-Seat twelve Leagues distant from Ispahan P, where Cha-Sephi was to spend Part of the latter Season with his whole Court. But how Providence sports with the Projects of weak mortal Men! Sevagi, who about twenty Years before this Time had undergone the Operation for the Stone, and who fince two or three Years felt some Pain in his Bladder, which made him fear the Return of that dreadful Distemper, made use of Remedies, which feemed to give him fome Ease. and were in Effect nothing but Palliatives, When the Sophi's Departure was at hand, Sevagi had more violent and more frequent Fits than usual, which were atiended with Symptoms of a bad Omen. His Family and Friends

m The Duke of Maine n Cardinal De Fleury and Lewis XV. Prime Minister. P Paris.

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were justly alarm'd. The most famous Phyficians were called, together with an European 9 Surgeon, who happened luckily to be then at They examined the Condition of the Patient with all the Care possible; they compared the present Symptoms with those which Sevagi had had before; the European Surgeon probed him. The Refult was that the Diftemper was lodged in the Urethra, which was ulcerated, and that in order to stop the Progress of the Distemper, and prevent certain Death, the Operation was to be undertaken, which, though dangerous, it was not questioned but Sevagi would go through very well, confidering his strong Constitution and the regular Life he had led. This Prince resolved upon it, and the European Surgeon made the Operation, which proved as happy as could be wish'd, the Consequences of it gave even so much the more Hope, as Time was gained thereby, a most essential Circumstance in that kind of Distempers. But the nineteenth Day in the Morning Sevagi was very ill, and fell into a total Syncope, which continued twenty-four Hours, and was attended with frequent convulfive Motions. Since that he was plainly perceived to grow worse and worse, and died at last the twenty-second Day in the Evening, having, from the Moment the Operation was made, bore with a wonderful Conftancy the most acute Pains. He left but one Son thirteen Years old, to whom before he died he gave the most noble and useful Instructions. Zelida was very well provided for by his last Will, by which he also ordered Rewards to all. his Servants proportionable to their Condition and

This is only a Bl.nd to missead the Reader.

and Services. His Death was univerfally lamented, and deferved it; Zelida especially was gone.

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Cha-Sephi ' fent every Day to know how Sevagi did, and all the Grandees, by Inclination, as much as to pay their Court to the Sophi, followed his Example. The nineteenth Day, which, as we have observed, proved so dangerous, Daltemo came in the Morning from Cha-Sephi, and being ordered to see Sevagi, he defired to be introduced to him. They acquainted Ibbi ' with it, who was with Sevagi. He imagined that by mentioning to him an Express from the Sophi, it might occasion a great Emotion in the Soul, and put the Spirits in Motion again. With this Hope he drew near Sevagi, and told him in a loud Voice, that Daltemo defired to see him, being fent by Cha-Sephi for that Purpose, but that considering the Condition he was in, he was going to receive Sevagi, as tho' awaking him himself. from a found Sleep, faid to Ibbi, that fuch a Messenger was to be received by himself, and ordered Daltemo to be brought in. He enters accordingly, and acquaints Sevagi with the Sophi's Uneafiness upon his Account. Sevagi, with a Presence of Mind which astonished all those who knew what Condition he had just been in, defires Daltemo to present his most humble Respects to Cha-Sephi, and to assure him of his Gratitude and Fidelity: He charges him also to give his tender Compliments to Ismael-Beg', to whom he particularly recommends his Son and Zelida. Daltemo was scarce gone,

Lewis XV. S Marshal De Noailles. Cardinal De Fleuri.

gone, but this Prince fell again into a Syntope, and whatever could be done, it was not possible to make him recover his Senses during that whole Day. A most extraordinary Particular, which leaves no room to doubt but Sevagi loved the Sophi most tenderly, and that so dear a Name made on his Soul so strong an Impression as made the Spirits of the Blood revive in a Moment.

Sevagi's Death disappointed all Cha-Sephi and Ismael-Beg's Projects. The latter gave over all Thoughts of Retirement, in order to devote the Remainder of his Days to his Mafter's Service. But his Application to the Affairs of the State did not make him lose fight of young Sevagi ", he continued to him that tender Friendship he had vowed to his Father, and gave him most effectual Proofs of it, by procuring to him, notwithstanding the Endeavours of the Jealous and the Oppofers, all the Employments his Father was possessed of. Cha-Sephi, faithful to Sevagi's Memory, continued even for two Years to honour his Castle with his Presence. But as we have already observed the Difgust, which Nargum gave to some of the Sophi's Attendants, for whom he had a particular Friendship, and the Opportunity which offered, to make him buy a Country Seat advantageously situated on the Banks of the Zonderon, a few Miles distant from Ispahan w, put an End to those Journeys.

The Sophi gave himself intirely over to the Pleasure of rendering that Seat a Place worthy a Sovereign. He made considerable Additions to all the Buildings which were not large

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enough. They admired chiefly a little Appartment contrived over that of Cha-Sephi, with which it had a Communication by a back Stairs. This was the Favourite's Appartment. The Delicacy of the Sculpture, the Gold and Azure that glistened every where, the best contrived Furniture, and many beautiful Looking-Glasses advantageously situated, heighten'd the Plainness of that Appartment, and gave it a genteel Air, that struck the Beholder with Pleasure. In a word, the Invention of Art had been stretched to the utmost, for the Conveniency, good Taste, and Genteelness of this Seat. One of Cha-Sephi's Favourites, named Kigon x, Son of Seif, was Steward of that Seat, to which the Sophi went frequently, in Company with Retima y, and those Persons of his Court, whom he honoured with his Familiarity. This Place became very foon as famous, as the little Recesses in the Palace of Ispahan, and was more agreeable by its rural and folitary Situation, which could be enjoy'd every Moment.

Mirza-Haddi², died about this Time, and was foon followed by Ofman², who had the Management of War Affairs. The latter was fucceeded by Ibben^b, who had enjoyed that Post before him after the Removal of the un-

fortunate Akabar c.

That same Year the Usbecks of Zagathay lost their King, a Prince about sifty two Years old, who, by his regular Life, and strong Constitution seemed to promise a longer Life. He was the second King of that Country. His Father

^{*} Marshal de Coigni's Son. Y Mad. de Maili.

7 The Duke of Bourbon. M. D'Angervilliers.

M. de Bretueil. M. Le Blanc. d The Prussians.

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Father Raja of Attock c, in the Dominions of the Mogul, having powerfully affifted with his Troops Cha-Poledol f, then Emperor of Mogul, and engaged in a dangerous War, obtained from him in return that Zagathay, of which he was Sovereign, should be erected into a Kingdom.

The Prince, of whose Death we are speaking, was of middling Size, somewhat clumfy; he used to dress very plain, or rather without any Ceremony, and lived after the fame manner. He was Covetous, made no Expence but for the Maintenance of his Army, of which he constantly kept a numerous Body. He would have very tall Men, and spared nothing to get them. He spent his Time in Reviews and in Hunting; was absolute, and little beloved by his Subjects, and even by his own Children, whom he used with great Severity. For the rest he loved to live in a good Understanding with his Neighbours, engaged in no War, but for the strongest Reasons, had a great deal of good Sense, and understood perfectly well his true Interest.

He left his Dominions, and immense Treafures to Gion-Kan 3, his eldest Son, aged about twenty-nine Years. The Usecks were exceeding pleased to see the Crown on the Head of a Prince, whom they tenderly loved, and of whom they had conceived the more flattering Hopes, as they knew that he had often blamed his Father's Rigour and Avarice. His Mind was extremely cultivated, but a little too much turned to Dialectics. He employed his Time usefully,

Elector of Brandenburg. f The Emperor Leopold. Frederic III. the trefent King of Prussia.

usefully, and loved Men of Letters. Before he ascended the Throne he was affable, sweet-tempered, obliging and generous: Yet he was hardly seated upon it, but all those fine Qualities vanished away: He shewed himself an ambitious King, a dangerous Politician, an unsafe Ally, a turbulent Neighbour, a cruel Master; in a word, he was more Proud and Ambitious than his Father, and less generous still.

In the mean time Persiah, was intirely taken up with the Marriage of the Sophi's eldest Daughter with a Son i of the Emperor of Chinak. It was celebrated with the greatest Pomp and Magnisicence. The most agreeable Entertainments, the most splendid Spectacles, triumphal Arches, adorned with Emblems and Inscriptions, the most sumptuous Feasts succeeded each other by turns, and were for several Days the Amusement of the Court, and the City, and the Admiration of Foreigners, who had slocked thither from all Parts of Asia i, to be Partakers of those Entertainments.

The Princess was but thirteen Years old, extremely lovely, and very fair. To a charming Sweetness, which won her every Heart, she added a noble Air, which struck the Beholders with Awe. She became the Darling of the Chinese, as she had been of the Persians. The Prince was twenty Years old, and nothing inferior to his Consort, with regard to the Charms of his Person and Qualities of his Mind.

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Afia gave then all her Attention to the War which had been lately declared between Gelaleddin, Emperor of China m, and Chanavas Kan Emperor of Japan and Raja of Cabul, on account of confiderable Sums which these Princes demanded reciprocally of each other, and of fome pretended Infractions of Treaties. But this was only the Pretence of the Rupture; the true Cause was to deprive the Japonese of the Liberty which had been granted them to trade in the Dominions of China, (a Liberty which they were charged to have abused) and to diminish their Power, which was already too great, by draining the Spring of those immense Riches they had gained by that Trade. The Charge, which the Emperor of China laid upon the Japonese was not intirely groundless. They, being powerful by Sea, and of a Genius very proper for Trade, had for a long time wished to have a free Access into the Ports of China; they were so much the more defirous to obtain it, as they knew that Gelaleddin, would not grant it but with great Diffi-They took fuch Measures, that they came to their End, at least in Part: For Gelaleddin, who feared less, by giving them an indefinite Privilege, he would increase their Power, which gave already great Jealousies to most of the Courts of Asia, reduced that Priviledge to one fingle Ship. The Japonese were cunning enough to make the best Advantage of it, by fending into China so large a Ship, that its Cargo was equivalent to that of feveral ordinary Vessels; and to make amends for the narrow Bounds, within which the Empe-

ror of China thought to have confined his Privileges, they had the Precaution, when the Ship was coming back, to keep other Vessels at hand to meet it, and into which they unloaded the Cargo of the large Vessels, which by that Means could make in a very little time feveral Voyages to China. And indeed, one may fay, that it was constantly seen there; for it was hardly got out of the Harbours, but it entered them again. The Chinese opened their Eyes at last, and saw they had been bit by the Japonese; and in order to punish them for their Dishonesty, or rather for their Ability, Gelaleddin would recal his Privilege. The Court of Japan used all her Endeavours to ward off that Blow. After many useless Attempts the Japonele judged, that rather than suffer the Affront Gelaleddin wanted to do them, it was more expedient to endeavour, powerful as they were, to keep by force of Arms an Advantage, which let the worst come to the worst, they could but lose.

Such was the Motive of that War, on the Event of which all Asia had her Eye, when News was brought of the Death of Cha-Ressinc-Frola, Emperor of Mogul. This Prince, who was the thirteenth successive Emperor of his Family, saw his House extinct with him. He was but fifty-five Years old when he died, twenty-nine of which he had lived on the Throne, almost constantly at War. He had inherited all the Pride, Ambition, and domineering Spirit of his Family. His Policy was refined, his Hatred against Persia implacable, his Temper dull and melancholy, his Character milder than

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· The late Emperor Charles VI.

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his Predecessor's, but arbitrary, and his Government severe, a Fault common to all the Emperors of that Family. His Court was stately without being gay. He could not bear fuch Councils as did not fuit with his Notions: He was neither generous nor compassionate. He had given Proofs of his Courage at the Head of Armies, before he was Emperor; but afterwards, he made War only from his Closet; he had forgot that the Success of Arms is uncertain, and that Fortune, an inconstant Goddess, fometimes frowns upon the bravest and most experienced Warrior. From that Principle, he used to punish unmercifully, with the Loss of Life or Liberty, a General who suffered himself to be beaten. A Policy this, which is not very proper to form Officers of the first Rank! A Severity fo much the more unjust, as, generally speaking, the Orders from the Court, for the necessary Expeditions or Operations of the Campaign, were fo flow, or fo ill executed, that a General could hardly expect not to fuffer some Misfortune.

His Death was occasioned by an Indigestion, which carried him to the Grave in eight Days He had been thirty-three Years married with Selatiheb, Princess of Vrisknub P, and left by her but two Daughters, Nagar who four Years before his Death married Prince Aracam 9, and Remana, who was still unmarried. As he did not foresee that his Life would be so thort, he had taken no Measures to settle the Succession to his Imperial Crown. He had only given Hints of his favourable Dipositions to-

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wards his Son-in-Law, and shewed some Intentions to have him appointed his Successors: For which Purpose he had sounded the Rajahs, but without taking any formal Resolution.

He was of the House of Delly s, which fince three Centuries was in Possession of the Crown of Mogul, and he had rendered it in a Manner Hereditary, though, by its Constitution, it be A Policy always the same, several great Kingdoms, and many Sovereignties, which from Time to Time come to that House, some by a Right of Succession, others which she appropriated to herfelf as the faw her Authority increase; some also by Conquest, others by Treaties, had raifed that Family to fo high a Degree of Power, that the whole Empire trembled before it, especially under the three last Emperors; and that in the Assemblies that were convened for taking Refolutions concerning the General Affairs, none dared to Vote but according to their Orders. Publick Liberty groaned under a Yoke of Arbitrary Power, fo much the more unjust and odious, as those Emperors were not unacquainted with the Laws and Constitution of the State; and, in Defiance of the most facred Oaths, by which, before their Coronation, they had been bound towards the whole Body of the Empire, they applied themselves daily, to evade the Conventions, or put a wrong Construction upon them.

The Kingdom of Golconda was rendered Hereditary by Cha-Poledol w, who in his Presence caused his Son to be crowned King of it in an Assembly he had called together in the Capital

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City, for Form's Sake only, fince by his own Authority he abolished the Formalities, which had been constantly practifed, for above seven Centuries, in the Election of Kings. This arbitrary Proceeding made the greatest Part of the Kingdom rife in Arms, and occasioned an obstinate War, which continued several Years, and the Conclusion of which was, that the Golcondians lost entirely their Liberty, and all their Priviledges. This Prince treated after the fame Manner the Principality of Balaguata w, of which he also made an Hereditary Province. And by the same despotick Authority he deprived a Raja * of his Dignity, and created another beyond the usual Number, both which he did without the Participation and Consent of the States of the Empire, to whom the Right of Creation, and of Deprivation belongs by the Laws: Finally, by his own Authority he erected Zagathay vinto a Kingdom.

Seipho 2, who succeeded him, and was more absolute still, and more determined to excel his Authority, considered the Kingdom of Jenupar 2 as an Hereditary Estate, and assumed the Title of King of it, without causing himself to be elected or crowned by the States of the Kingdom, who acknowledged him nevertheless without any Protestation, and seemed thus to give up the Priviledge of electing their Kings; a Priviledge however which was confirmed by an authentic Edict made since above four Centuries, and was esteemed a fundamental Law of the Empire. This Prince did also proscribe in

^{*} Transilvania. * An Elector, viz. the Palatine.

* Prussia. * The Emperor Joseph. * Bohemia.

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his Council the Rajas of Multan and Visapour, and a Price was set upon the Head of the latter. He tore in Pieces with his own Hands the Deed which his Father Cha-Poledol had caused to be drawn up for investing them with their Dignity; he threw the Bits of it on the Ground, trampled them under his Feet, seized upon their Dominions, which he treated as conquered Countries, caused the Children of the Raja of Visipour to be carried off, and shut up in a strong Place, and deprived them even of the Name of their Family. He usurped some Sovereignties from the lawful Heirs, sold others which did not belong to him, and exerted unheard of Outrages both within and without the Empire.

When Cha-Ressinc-Frola came to the Throne, he had no Manner of Regard to the repeated Sollicitation of the Golcondians for the Restoration of their Rights and Priviledges, and particularly to the Request they made, that for the future the Crown of Golconda might not defcend to the feminine Branches of the Emperor's Family. He resolved to keep, and really kept for some Time the Dominions and Sovereignties of the Rajas of Multan and Visapour, which his Predecessor had invaded. He caused the Raja, whom his Father Cha-Poledol had created to be acknowledged; he engaged the Empire in Wars, in which he alone was perfonally concerned: Finally he made that great Body swear to the Execution of the Decree, by which, two Years after his Accession to the Imperial Crown, he had judged proper to fettle the Order of Succession of his Kingdoms, Dominions, Possessions,

b The Electors of Cologne and Bavaria. C The Emperor Charles VI.

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Possessions, and other hereditary Estates of his Family; a Decree which by his Authority he caused to be admitted as a Law of the Empire, and which he had the Pleasure to see guaranteed

by most of the Powers of Asia c.

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That Decree, which was deposited amongst the public Records, as a perpetual and irrevocable Law, was to this Purpose: That in Case Cha-Ressinc-Frola, should die without leaving any Male-Heirs, the eldest of his Daughters (the Right and Order of indivisible Primogeniture being always preserved) should succeed to all his Kingdoms, Provinces and Dominions, without any Division or Separation being ever made in Behalf of those, either Male or Female, who should be of the second, third, or last Branch, or Degree, or otherwise; for what soever Reason it might be, that same Right and Order of indivisible Primogeniture being to be. kept in all the other Cases, and for ever, at all Times, and for all Ages equally, whenever the Succession to the hereditary Kingdoms, States and Dominions of that Emperor should happen to be open.

This Prince's Succession was immensely large; besides the Kingdoms of Golconda and Jenupar d, the Principalities of Dellye, Sembal, Bacar and Bengala, he left also the States of Candir, Balaguata, Telenga, Carnatica, and Patma f, besides a great many other Countries and Dominions. Immediately after his Death, his eldest Daughter Nagar was proclaimed. Queen of Golconda and Jenupar, Sovereign Princess of Delly, and of all her Father's hereditary Provinces and Dominions, according to the Order settled by the

Europe. d Hungary and Bohemia. e Austria. f The other Dominions of the Heuse of Austria in Germany, Italy, and the Low-Countrie.

Decree we have been mentioning. She was acknowledged as fuch, not only in all her Dominions, but also by the Rajas g, and even by the greatest Part of Asia. The Raja of Visapour halone refused to acknowledge her, on account of his Claim to the late Emperor's Succession, which he was resolved to affert, and which was grounded on ancient Family-Treaties, and on the last Will of the Emperor Sepper Kan, who had been dead near two hundred Years, and by which he had ordered, that his eldest Daughter who should happen to be living at the Time the Succession became open, should succeed to the two Kingdoms of Golconda and Junapar, in case there remained no Heirs Male of any of the three Bro-

thers of that Emperor.

By another Clause of that Will, the Prince ordered, that all his Hereditary Dominions of Delly, and their Dependencies, should, after the Extinction of his Male-Descendants, belong to his Brother and to his Heirs Male, who should be the only Heirs,except that Daughter of his who should succeed to his Kingdoms and enjoy them. And by a Codicil, made four Years after that Will, he confirms that Difposition, and declares expresly, that in the Case in Question the Kingdoms of Golconda and Junapar, should be inherited by the eldest of his Daughters, who This Emat that Time, should happen to be living. peror gave his eldest Daughter in Marriage to a Raja of Visapour, and it is from that Marriage, the present Family is descended, and on which it grounds its Claim to the Succssion of Cha Ressinc-Frota. Princess Nagar answered to this, that the Article of the last Will produced by the Raja of Visapour, did not agree with the Original, in

& Electors.

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which, instead of these Words, in case there remained no Heirs Male, there were the following, in Case there remained no lawful Heirs; and that in Consequence to that Disposition, made agreeably to the Laws of Nature, and to all others, the Preference before any Person whatsoever, belonged to her, as being the eldest Daughter of the last surviving Male; and that besides this, in Cases of a Succession, from which Women are not excluded, they are to be understood under the Name of Lawful Descendants.

There were fome other Pretenders besides this: One was the King of Necbal i, who claimed the Principality of Bengale k. Another was the Emperor of China, who grounded his Claim on a Family Contract, figned an Hundred and Twenty-three Years before, in the Capital City of the Kingdom of Jenupar, between the then reigning Emperors of Mogul and China, by which the latter yielded to the former, the eventual Succession to the States of Bacar and Sambac, and to feveral other Provinces, on Condition nevertheless, that in case the Masculine Line of the Emperor of Mogul should become extinct, the Dominions yielded to him should return to the Emperor of China, or to his Posterity, in such a Manner that his Daughters should inherit, and not those of the Emperor of Mogul, or their Decendants. Whence it was concluded, that the Princes and Princesses, descended from the Wife of Cha-Abas the Great m, (who was herfelf descended from the Emperor of China, we are fpeaking of) had a Right to the Imperial Succeffion, before the Daughters of Cha Poledol n, and of his Successors.

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Sardinia. k Milan. The King of Spain. m Lewis XIV. King of France. The Emperor Leopold.

The King of Zagathay was also one of the Pretenders. He claimed, as Raja of Attock 9, an unquestionable Right of his Family to the Dominions and Country of Bacar, a Right grounded on ancient Family Treaties, and Affociations between the Rajas of Attock and the Princes of Bacar, and also on other Reasons. In consequence of this Claim he entered at the Head of a numerous Army into the Province of Bacar, where he met with very little Resistance, because his Attempt being kept fecret till the Moment it was executed, Nagar's had not been able to put herself in a Condition to oppose him. All Asia was so much the more surprized at this Step, as this Prince had but just made to Nagar the strongest Protestations of his Devotion to her Interest, and of his fincere Dispositions to maintain the Tranquillity of the Empire. He thought he could fufficiently justify his Conduct, by declaring that the present Circumstances of Affairs, and the well-grounded Apprehension of being prevented by those who laid several Claims to the late Emperor's Succession, required so much Dispatch in the Undertaking, and fo much Vigour in the Execution, that it was not possible for him to argue the Case previously with the Queen of Golconda; that his entring with an Army into the Province of Bacar, was with no other View, but to preferve it from any Attack or Invasion, by any of the I retenders to the Imperial Succession, who might have feized upon it with open Force, at a Time when a general War feemed to be at hand; that for the rest, he did by no Means de_

b Elector of Brandenburg. s The Queen of Hungary. t Europe.

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fign to disoblige the Queen of Golconda, with whom on the contrary, he earnesty desired to keep up a strict Friendship, and to promote, with all his Power, her true Interest and Preservation.

Notwithstanding these fine Protestations, the King of Zagathay entered some Time after into an Alliance with Persia, and with the Rajas of Visapour and Lahor, by a Treaty, which had no other Tendency but to disposses the Queen of Golconda of all her Dominions, and the March of this Prince's Troops was the Signal of almost a general War, which was soon after

kindled in Afia x.

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In the mean Time, the Choice of a Successor to Cha-Ressinc-Frola, put all the Powers in Asia upon Action, especially Persia, whom it concerned very much that the Imperial Crown should not be bestowed but to a Prince almost entirely at her Disposal; and particularly that the Raja of Vifapour should be elected, whose House had at all Times been in the Interest of the Sophis 2. The frequent Misfortunes, which the Alliance with Persia had drawn upon that House, and the Desolation still recent of its Dominions, did well deserve, that in this Occurence Cha-Sephi a should give effectual Proofs of his Gratitude and Devotion to Cha-Bascan b, then Raja of Vifapour. But before we relate what the Sophi did in Behalf of this Prince, it will not be improper to give some Account of the Empire of Mogule, of its Constitution and

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France, w The Elistors of Bavaria and Saxony.

Europe. y The Emperor Charles VI. 2 French
Kings. 2 Lewis XV. b The late Elector of Bavaria.

The Empire of Germany.

Laws, of its Condition and that of the Rest of Asia, at the Death of Cha-Ressinc-Frola.

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That large and powerful Empire has been for a long Time Hereditary, and is now Elective. It contains feveral Dominions, governed by Rajase, subordinate indeed to the Emperor, but to whom belongs the Sovereignty of the Empire, in Conjunction with the Umrahs d, and with some considerable and free Towns. The whole is composed of three Classes, which being united together form the Body of the Empire. This Body has a Right to determine all general Affairs that concern it, in Assemblies which meet for that Purpose. The Emperor alone has a Right to call them together, and to cause his Propositions to be made to it, by his Commissaries, whom he sends thither to prefide there in his Place.

The Empire is divided into feveral large Provinces, the Princes of which, and the Omrahs, with the Deputies of the Cities, affemble at appointed Times for particular Affairs. These Provinces contribute towards the Support of the Empire, of which they are Members; they furnish Troops and Money in Proportion to what each of them is able to afford. These Contingents are defigned only for the Service of the State in general, fo that when the Emperor is engaged to carry on a War, which does not concern the whole Body, or which is not declared, in a full Affembly, to be a War of the Empire, he cannot demand these Contingents, nor require any Affistance from the Provinces, but is obliged to carry on alone, with his

2.3

Europe. Elettors. The College of the Princes.

his own Troops, and at his own Expence, a War which is confidered as relating to him perfonally: It is for that Reason, that the Rajas are always careful not to put the Imperial Crown but on the Head of a Prince rich and powerful enough to support himself by his own Strength.

The Rajas who have a Right to elect the Emperor are those of Guzaratee, Bucker, Multan, Jenupar, Visapour, Lahor, Attock, Brampour, and Cabul. Of these nine Rajas the three first have only an active Vote, that is to fay, that they can elect, but cannot be elected; differing in this from the fix others, who have both an active and passive Vote, that is, who can elect and be elected. The Dignity of Raja and all that depends from it, is hereditary from Male to Male in the last fix; but as for the three first, the Dignity belongs only to the Person of him whom the Grandees of the Country do themfelves raise to that Rank, a Privilege peculiar to the States of Guzarate, Bucker and Multan: but the Dignity of all of them is indivisibly connected with the Principality. Each of these Rajas enjoys a full Sovereignty in his own Dominions, and has a Right to make War, Alliances and Treaties, both within and without the Empire, with whomfoever he thinks proper, provided the Emperor, and the Empire jointly, receive no Prejudice from it.

When the Imperial Throne is vacant, it is the Province of the Raja of Guzarate to call together the other Rajas, in order to proceed to the Election of a Head of the Empire, which Election might be declared void, if through Inadvertentcy, or otherwise, he had omitted to

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fummon one of them. But in case the Emperor has a Mind to have his Successor appointed in his Life-time, the Raja of Guzarate cannot call the Assembly together, unless he be impowered by his Colleagues, who on this Occasion represent the whole Body of the

Empire.

Amadabat, an Imperial City, is the Place where the Assemblies for the Election ought to be kept. He who is elected, must absolutely be of the Male Sex, and as much as is possible a Mogolian by Birth, or at least by Extraction, and of a proper Age. He must be a good Man, just, prudent, and brave; in a word, adorned with all the Virtues that can render him useful to the State; and finally, rich and powerful, that he may be able to support the Dignity of the Imperial Crown.

By virtue of the Edict of Salcher IV. h, the Rajas ought to repair immediately to the Place of Election, or cause themselves to be represented there by Persons provided with full Powers from them; and if a Raja should neither go, nor send, he would lose, but for that Time only, the Right of giving his Vote. The Election must be made within one Moon, reckoning from the Time the Rajas have taken

the Oath.

As foon as the Election is over, the Prince elect is made to subscribe the Conditions on which he is called to the Empire; and to swear to the Performance of them; after which they proclaim him. These Conditions contain the Precautions that are taken to limit his Power, and

prevent him from pretending to an hereditary Succession to the Empire, either for himfelf, or for his Heirs or Descendants, or for any Person whatsoever; and finally to maintain the Prerogatives of which the Rajas are in Possession, and the Rights and Liberties of the Empire. On the Day of his Coronation he is again obliged to fwear, among other Things, that he will maintain the Rights, and recover the Estates of the Empire, and employ them

faithfully for the publick Good.

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According to the Laws and Constitution of the Empire, the Emperor cannot, without a general Consent of all the Estates, proscribe any Raja, Omrah, or immediate State, confiscate their Properties, deprive them of the Right of fitting and voting in the Assemblies, mortgage or alienate any thing belonging to the Empire, dispose of the chief vacant Fiefs, declare or make War, with or without the Empire, conclude a Peace or Alliance, nor do many other Things, which it would be tedious to mention. But, excepting all those Cases, he acts with a full Power, and with a Sovereign Authority.

At the Death of Cha-Ressinc-Frola, Nabal-Akel-Kank, descended from an ancient and noble Family, was Raja of Guzarate, a Dignity to which his Merit had raised him some Years His Office, which was the first in before. Rank among the Rajas, gave him a great Credit and Authority, which he used only for the Advantage of the Empire, to maintain Union and Concord among all its Members, and to procure to the State a worthy Chief. He had won the Esteem and Friendship of the late

E The late Elefter of Mentz.

Emperor, of the whole Empire, and even of Persia, with whom especially the Neighbourhood of his Dominions required him to live in a good Understanding. As he was no Warrior, he kept only a small Number of Troops for the Desence of his Towns. He was persectly acquainted with the Interest of the Empire, and the Members of the Assemblies shewed so much Respect for his old Age, and trusted so much to his Experience, that they often submitted to his Opinions.

The Raja of Bucker m, who held the second Rank, was called Nali-Kan. His noble Descent, and personal Qualities, had determined the Grandees of Bucker to chuse him; he was good-natured, and affable, and what Inclination soever he shewed for the House of Delly n, he generally gave pretty much into the

Schemes of the Raja of Guzarate.

The third, named Abdula-Kan, was of the House of Visapour, and had succeeded one of his Uncles into the Dignity of Raja of Multan. He had a great and generous Soul, was munificent, zealous for the Interest of his House, and in a strict Union with his Brother the Raja of Visapour, which had made him sometimes oppose the Designs of the late Emperor, whose kind of Despotism these Princes could not well brook.

The fourth was the Raja of Jenupar, which Dignity Cha-Ressinc-Frola had been invested with as King of Jenupar, and which confequently was then vacant.

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France. Treves. Austria. The Elector of Cologne. P Bohemia.

Cha-Baskan, Raja of Visapour q, which Dignity his House had been in possession of above a Century, held the fifth Rank. This Prince was tall, had a long Face, pretty large Eyes, a fweet Countenance, a long Nose, and a pretty large Mouth. Upon the whole, he was not what might be called a handsome Man, but he had an excellent Heart, was very affable, of an amiable Character, and mild Temper. He was generous, grateful, constant in his Affections, and faithful to his Engagements. He was reckoned to have no great Skill in War, and but little Genius. Though the Alliance he had contracted with Cha-Restinct Frola, having married one of his Nieces, ought, it feems, to have engaged him in the Interest of the House of Delly, yet the Advantage of the Empire, his own private Interest, and the Resentment of the Severities that House had used against his Ancestors, had often made him fide with the Party that declared against the late Emperor.

The fixth was the Raja of Lahor, his Name was Selim-Kan, and he also had married a Niece of the late Emperor. This Prince was tall, and had an handsome Face; but he shrugged his Shoulders, and was extremely lusty for his Age. He was good-natured, magnificent, generous, and of an easy Access. Notwithstanding the Alliance he had made with Persia, the King of Zagathay, and the Raja of Visapour, he was more inclined to Peace, than to War; and though he had been of a quite opposite Character, yet his own Interest, considering

⁹ The late Elector of Bavaria afterwards Emperor Saxony. 5 France. t Prussia.

the Situation of his Dominions, which bordered on those of the House of Delly, and the Inclination which the Grandees of his Kingdom of Thibet " had for that House, obliged him to act with a great deal of Circum-

spection.

Gion-Kan, Raja of Attock x, and King of Zagathay, held the feventh Rank. The Character of this Prince, which we have given above, and his Invasion of the Province of Bakar y immediately after the Death of Cha-Ressinc-Frola, are fufficient to acquaint the Reader with his Policy, and real Sentiments towards the House of Delly. We shall only add, that this Raja, being elated with his Power, seemed to have forgot that Cha-Poledol 2 had bestowed upon his Grand-father, the Title of King of Zagathay, and that he thought himself disengaged from all Ties of Gratitude for so ancient a Favour, which he imagined his two Predecessors had sufficiently acknowledged.

The eighth, was the Raja of Brampour'; his Name was Aft-Kan. The Neighbourhood of Persia b, which upon the least Discontent could n vade his Dominions, and the Neighbourhood of the Dominions of the House of Delly c obliged him to have great Regard for both these Powers, with whom it was his chief Interest to live in a good Understanding. some Circumstances, and particularly during the War, which Cha-Ressinc-Frola sustained against Persia, the Emperor of China and the King.

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of Nechal, he did not think himself under any Obligation to join with the Emperor, to whom

that War was indeed personal.

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- of Cabul was reckoned -Charavas-Kan, was the third of his Family, who enjoy'd that Dignity, which Cha-Poledol had by his own Authority erected in favour of Katzem de Vrisknub, Grand-father to him we are speaking of, with this extraordinary Condition, that neither he, nor any of his Descendants should ever give their Vote for the Election of an Emperor, but to a Prince of the House of Delly. And accordingly Chanavas-Kan was entirely devoted to that House, for the Support of which, after the Death of Cha-Ressinc-Frola, he made the greatest Efforts. This Prince's Alliance proved so much the more advantageous to the Queen of Golconda, that at his Sollicitation, the Japonese, whose Emperor he was, did not only affift that Princess with considerable Sums, but even declared afterwards openly for her, a Step which they took so much the more readily, as it set them at Variance with Persia, whose Enemies they have been Time out of Mind. Perhaps, also it happened with the Japonese in this Occurrence, as with a Creditor to whom a confiderable Sum is due, and who thinks it proper to venture still more, in hopes of being at last entirely re-imbursed, or of seizing all his Debtor's Estates, or at least that Part of it, which lies most conveniently for him. However that be, it feems furprizing, that Chanavas-Kan could so easily persuade the Japonese, who are known to be but little tractable, little comcomplaifant to their Masters, and jealous of their Liberty; and who, befides, were not well pleafed in general, with the Government of their Emperor, whose frequent Journies into his Principality of Cabul, they did not much like. However, this Prince was perhaps more absolute in his Aristo-democratical Empire, than any of his Predecessors had ever been, and had every Thing he could defire, granted to him. was the Fruit of the Policy and Ability of his Ministers, who gave him all possible Authority in the fecond Class of the Senate, which is the most numerous, and in which they found Means to procure Seats to a great many Persons of Credit, who owing their Fortunes or their Employments to the Emperor, declared always for him, and carried every thing in their Deliberations, by their own Suffrages, and by those of the Members they won over, some by Threatnings, the greatest Part by the Expectation of Rewards. This Prince was rather short than tall, had a proud Afpect, and an Air not very engaging; and though his Conduct was agreeable to good Policy, and the Interest of his Dominions, yet he was judged to have but little Genius. He did not much trouble himself with State Affairs, which, like a great many other Princes, he left to his Ministers. He often gave Discontents, even to his own Children, the eldest of whom was fo much beloved by a great Number of Japonese, that he might have made a formidable Party, if he would have taken an Advantage of their Good-will, and hearken to the pernicious Counsels of Flatterers, during the Mifunderstanding between his Father and him. Chanavas-Kan had some Inclination for the fair Sex.

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Sex, and but little or none at all for what is great and noble. Though he shewed himself at the Head of his Armies, yet he was no Warrior. His Character was undetermined; he was neither brisk nor indolent, had neither Pride nor Gentleness of Temper; was sad rather than, gay; his Court was less splendid by the Pleasures he procured it, and by the Expence he made, than by that of the Japonese Lords, who for the most Part, were very rich, and who all loved Splendour.

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Besides these nine Rajas, there were also in the Empire several Omrahs e, whose Power caused their Alliance and Friendship to be courted, and feveral Free-Towns, which were not without fome Credit. Upon the whole, the Mogolians in general being tired with the Government of the House of Delly 8, saw with Pleasure, that by the Death of Cha-Ressinc-Frola, they came again into the Possession of their ancient Rights, and were now Masters to chuse themselves a Head, whom they might lay, for the Support of the publick Liberty, under fuch Laws and Restrictions, as they should think proper.

The Throne of China h was filled by Gelaleddin , a Prince pretty much advanced in Years, and who, like the Sophi k, to whom he was very nearly related, did not love Business. He was kind, humane, and peaceable; and his Reign would have been one of the happiest, if he had not fuffered himself to be too much governed by the Empress his Consort, a Princess endowed with a very great Genius, but haughty, proud, ambitious, enterprizing, obstinate in her Opi-

nions, A Spain.

g Auffria. f Germans. e Princes. Philip V. k The French King.

nions, defirous to govern, and determined, cost it what it would, to procure confiderable Estates for her Children; a Princess, in a Word, more univerfally feared than beloved in all the Courts of Afia 1. Gelaleddin and Cha-Sephi m, who had lately made their Union more close, by the Marriage of a Princess of Persia with Negeddin " Prince of China by a second Marriage, had the same Interest and the same Designs; and the Emperor of China had moreover, as we have obferved above, some Claims to the Succession of

Cha-Ressinc-Frola.

It was very much the Interest of Olabi o, Gelaleddin's eldest Son by his second Wife, to live in a good Understanding with Persia, who had confiderably contributed to raise him on the Throne of Cochin-china P. This Prince, tho' young still, governed with Wisdom and Prudence; and, what is much to his Honour, was beloved by his Subjects, who are a reftlefs, inconstant Nation, difficult to rule. He was in his Heart, an Enemy to the House of Delly ; but as his Dominions could be eafily invaded by the Queen of Golconda and her Allies; this Confideration made him hesitate a long while, whether or not he should join in Alliance with Persia and China; and, on the other hand, his Father-in-Law Selim-Kan King of Thibet', and Raja of Lahor, inspired him with pacific Sentiments.

Cha-Askeri reigned in Carea 1. This Prince being Brother-in-Law to the late Emperor of Mogu!, ceffi Poir Gold the who Do wit to l

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Europe. m Philip V. and Lewis XV. n Don Phil p. Don Carlos. P Naples and Sicily. 4 Auftria. Hungary. Poland. tugal.

gul, had laid some Claim to the Imperial Succesceffion; on which Account he had been on the Point of entering into a War with the Queen of Golconda. But the Fear which he conceived of the Maritime Power of the Emperor of Japan, whose Ships might infest the Sea-Coast of his Dominions, prevented him from breaking out with her. For the rest, that Prince was not much to be depended upon, for his Mind was not in a

very found Disposition.

Korfula, Sovereign of Jesova, was in Possesfion of the Kingdom of Necbal z. Though we have already mentioned this Prince on Account of his Father Koturi's Abdication, and of the War he carried on against Cha-Ressinc-Frola, in Conjunction with China and Persia, yet his Conduct in the present Circumstances obliges us to bring him once more upon the Stage. This Monarch, who had lately married a Sifter of the Prince of Aracam, the Queen of Golconda's Husband, was strongly sollicited by that Princess. The Offer she made to give up to him a considerable Part of the Principality of Bengale 2, to which he pretended a Right, would have been fufficiently capable to determine him. But the Propositions which China and Persia made him on the other Side, kept him in Suspence. all, it feemed but natural, that he should join with the Queen of Golconda, who had it at every Instant in her Power to perform the Conditions of the Treaty: But if War was once declared, it was to be feared lest Persia and China should take from him, not only what the Queen of Golconda might have given up to him, but also

* Sardinia. Y Tuscany. 2 The " Savoy. Milaneze.

PIO The SECRET HISTORY

his own Dominions. This Prince therefore, as a skilful Politician, protracted the Negotiations in order to gain Time, and to determine himself. according to the Turn which Affairs should take. In the mean time, he was courted by both Parties, and would perhaps have declared at last against the Queen of Golconda, if the Japonese had not determined him in Favour of this Princess, by the Offer they made him of large Sums of Money under the Name of Subfidies, and of Troops for the Desence of his Dominions. Thus this Prince, who, like his Father, loved to fish in troubled Waters, did not suffer himself: to be won, but when he got a real Advantage by If the Empress of China 2, had not scrupled too long to grant to Korfula the Share he demanded in the Countries that were to be conquered and taken from the Queen of Golconda, that Stroke had been prevented; but as she had an Eve upon those same Countries, which she defigned as a Settlement for her fecond Son, who was the Sophi's Son-in-Law, the continued obstinate against all the Rules of good Policy, and would not give up what she ran no manner of Danger to promife, fince it was still to be conquered.

The Emperor of Russia was a Prince still at his Nourse's Breast, and his Father governed the Empire with the Title of Regent. The Queen of Golconda might so much the more depend on that powerful Empire, as the Regent and the Ministry were entirely devoted to the House of

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^{*} The Queen of Spain. . Auftria.

b The French King.

Dabur of Hasseclesse reigned in Jalekeldar a, and Mohadi in Balck. These two Kings saw with Concern, the Agitation which Cha-Ressinc-Frola's Death occasioned in the several Courts of Asia. Every Thing foreboded an approaching War, which they could have wished to have prevented.

Mahmouth was Emperor of the Turks, and whatever Inclination he might have to disturb the House of Delly, he was too much taken up with the Defence of his own Dominions, to think of interfering with the Affairs of the Em-

pire of Mogul 1.

After the different States we have been mentioning, the Ceylaneze g made a confiderable Figure in Afiah, and their Alliance was courted by all the Princes. Their Government is Repub-The Publick Authority refides indeed in a certain Number of Deputies, which every Province appoints, and who represent the whole Body of the State, and act in its Name. But as every Province is free, and Mistress to take fuch Resolutions as she thinks proper, and to govern herself after her own Fancy, they who are at the Head of Affairs can come to no Refolution in certain Cases of Importance, without confulting the respective Provinces, whose Advice they are obliged to take. The Opposition of one fingle Province is sufficient to cause any Proposition to be rejected, or to stop the Execution of any Resolution. Besides this, the Grand Assembly, which is entrusted with the Sovereign Power, confifts of fo great a Number of Persons, and of such different Characters, that it is almost impossible they should be unanimous

d Sweden. Denmark. f Germany. g The Dutch. Europe.

unanimous, and all act with the same Zeal for the publick Good. One may eafily guess to how many Inconveniencies such a Government may be subject, how easy a Matter it is to create Divisions amongst the Deputies, and to make an Advantage of them to the Prejudice of the It is even furprizing that this State subsisted so long. The several Checks it has suffered fince about two hundred Years that the Ceylaneze shook off the Yoke of China i, to form themselves into a Republick, the almost continual Disunion, which prevails in their Grand Assembly; the Discontent of the People, which has been fometimes carried to an open Rebellion; the Care they take to keep Men of a good Understanding out of the Administration; and above all the Want of a Chief, whose illustrious Birth might dazzle the Eyes of the Subjects, and who might unite in his own Person the greatest Part of the Publick Authority; would make one conjecture, that that State will not continue long in the same Condition it is in, especially as it has already suffered some Alterations, which, though but little confiderable in Appearance, have yet an Influence upon the very Nature of its Constitution.

After the Death of Cha-Ressinc-Frolak, the Sovereigns of that State acted after such a Manner, as to some seemed very extraordinary, and to others very prudent. They negociated at the Court of Persia, with which they would by no means fall out, and shewed a great Regard for the House of Delly, the Emperor of Japan, and all the Powers concerned. It concerned

Spain. & The Emperor Charles VI, France.

M. Audria.

cerned Peace their tenfive which wherev of Inh and ir Their from constit render be in War. quence prever it was dium, Power terests Empe the P nished Check the Pe also to of Vi very : Prince it cor House

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cerned them indeed very much to preferve the Peace of Asian. A War could not but hurt their Trade exceedingly, which was very extensive, and the only Support of their Country. which does not by far produce sufficiently wherewithal to maintain a prodigious Number of Inhabitants. Their Subjects are all Traders, and in a Manner the Factors of all Afia. Their Capital is a general Staple; they receive from abroad immense Riches, which as they constitute the Wealth of the People, so they render the State very powerful. They would be in Danger of losing those Advantages by It was therefore of the utmost Consequence to them to use all their Endeavours for preventing a Rupture: but at the same Time, it was extremely difficult to keep such a Medium, as might give Content to the other Powers, who had fuch opposite Views and Interests. Persia and her Allies, wanted the late Emperor's Succession to be dismember'd, and the Power of the House of Delly to be diminished, which had already received a very great Check, by the Extinction of the Male-Heirs in the Person of Cha-Ressinc-Frola: Persia desired also to put the Imperial Scepter into the Raja of Visapour's . Hands. It was in many respects very indifferent to the Ceylaneze whether that Prince or any other were elected Emperor: But it concerned them exceedingly to support the House of Delly, and to continue the Imperial Succession entire upon the Head of the Queen of Golconda, because of the immense Sums which she and her House owed them, and for the Security of which several Cities in P Feldran

[&]quot; Europe. " The Elector of Bavaria. P Flanders.

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had been mortgaged to them; it was so much the more their Interest to keep those Cities in their own Hands, as they covered the Countries they possessed on that Side. If they had openly declared against the Queen of Golconda 9, they would have been in Danger of lofing that Security: and the more so, as the Japonese, who had a long time wished to have a Footing in the Neighbourhood of Persia and Mogul, might have advanced to that Princess the Sums she wanted to reimburse the Ceylaneze, and put themselves thus in their Stead: A Stroke, which it was very material to ward off, fince the Power of the Jeponese gave the Inhabitants of Ceylan already but too much Jealoufy, not to dread their Neighbourhood above any thing in the World. Another Reason, which was not less powerful to make the Sovereigns of Ceylan adhere to the Queen of Golconda, were the Treaties of offensive and defensive Alliance between the House of Delly, Japan and them. Further, the Faponese were very strong by Sea; and could very much annoy the Trade of the Ceylaneze, to which, after a War which did not prove advantageous to the latter, the People of Japan had already given a very severe Blow, by depriving them of the Liberty of trading from Ceylan to Japan and back again, but in Japonese Vessels.

The Sovereigns of Ceylan, in order to fulfil their Engagements with the House of Delly and the Emperor of Japan, ordered great Warlike Preparations to be made both by Sea and by Land: But at the same time, in order to avoid

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a Rupture with Persia and her Allies, those Preparations were carried on fo flowly, that it was easily understood they were made purely in Pursuance of Treaties, which they were obliged to perform, and this Obligation ferved them for an Excuse, especially at the Court of Persia, which secured them against all Reproaches. However, by continuing united with the House of Delly, they exposed themselves to see the Persian Arms take from them all those Cities which had been mortgaged to them by the House of Delly, considering that Nagar " was fill Sovereign of those Cities, and that it was natural for Persia to begin her Hostilities against that Princess, by attacking those Places which belonged to her, notwithstanding they were garrisoned by the Troops of Ceylan. And this happened accordingly, as foon as the War was declared, as we shall relate hereafter.

Whilst the Sovereigns of Ceylan behaved with fo much Caution, many of their Subjects, who were ill pleased with the Ministry of Persia, blamed their Conduct most loudly. Places of publick Assemblies rung with nothing but Complaints against the Governments, Proofs of Affection towards the Queen of Golconda, and outrageous Discourses against her Enemies. They, who were at the Head of the Government, took no Notice of all this; they knew that fuch Discourses were held chiefly in the Evening, and after People had drank plentifully. They judged that the least they could do, was to indulge the Traders, to whom the State owed all its Strength, a full Liberty to censure; confidering also that these People had no other View

u The Queen of Hungary.

View but to refresh themselves from the Fatigues of the Day, and that when they awaked in the Morning, they did not remember a Word of what was said in the Evening, and had no other Care, but that of their Trade, in comparison to which it was well known, that every thing was indifferent to them, till the Time of their

Evening Meetings.

Tunquin w, another rich and powerful Commonwealth, though of a small Extent, was not less considerable. The Government of the State is entrusted with a certain Number of Noblemen, at the Head of whom there is a Chief x, who has no Power but in Conjunction with the supreme Council. Independently from that Council, there is a fovereign Tribunal composed of ten Citizens, just, incorruptible, and perfectly acquainted with the Laws and Constitution of the State. This Tribunal is formidable both to the great and the little Ones, and keeps every body to his Duty. That Form of Government is very ancient, a great deal of Wisdom and Prudence have been at all Times the Support of it, and to these Virtues the State is indebted for its Wealth and Strength. The Tunquineze, conducting themselves always by the same Principles, would not concern themselves with the Wars into which they forefaw that Cha-Ressinc-Frola's Death was like to engage the greatest Part of Asia v. Careful to fecure their Country against any Attempt, they remained the Spectators of the Events.

The Kalmucs², who are a numerous People, dispersed among inaccessible Mountains, warlike, frugal, free from the Asiatic Luxury,

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and from all Ambition of aggrandizing themfelves, made themselves also to be courted. They are divided into several Hordes a, independent of each other, each of which governs itself as it pleases; but they are all allied together for their common Interest. They live in a good Understanding with all the Powers of Afia, and refuse a Succour of Men to none, provided they be paid; a Policy by which they free their Country, which is not very fruitful, from its superfluous Inhabitants, and cause Money to be carried thither, which would be very scarce, were it not for that kind of Traffick. These People kept up an exact Neutrality, and applied themselves like the Tunquineze, only to fecure their Frontiers.

There were also the Principalities of Aracam, Ava , and several other small States, which, by their Situation, followed the Stream of the larger States upon which they bordered, or within which they happened to be inclosed.

Such was the Disposition of Asia when Cha-Ressinc-Frola died. The Raja of Guzarate having invited the others, they prepared to repair to Amadabat d, in order to proceed to the Election of a Head of the Empire. This grand Affair put all the Powers of Afia in Motion, Persia was raising numerous Armies, and erected confiderable Magazines upon the Frontiers; and prepared herself however to send an Ambassador to Amadabat, as she is used to do, when an Emperor is to be elected.

There was at that Time at the Court of Persia one Scadeck e, a Man who had a great deal of

b Tuscany. · The Milaneze. a Cantons. d Francfort.

of Wit, and was not less ambitious. He was not very young, and had paffed all his Lifetime in the Profession of Arms, of which he had made a ferious Study. He was brave, fometimes rash, but a good Officer, and very under-Though he fatigued the Soldiers by standing. frequent Reviews and Exercises, yet he was very much beloved by them, because he procured them some Perquisites by employing them in the Works of the Towns of his Government, and because he supported them against their Officers, for whom he was faid not to have a fufficient Regard. He was lively, obstinate in his Opinions, forming Projects, and wishing, with very good Reasons, to be raised to the highest Rank in the Armies, in which, notwithstanding his Capacity, he had been but flowly advanced. His Family, though not ancient, was illustrious. His Grandfather f had been in the Ministry, and died out of Favour. This Difgrace did confiderably lessen the Credit of his Family; but as it was very rich, it supported itself; and Scadeck, who was become the Head of it, was much esteemed at Court. He was defirous to know every thing, and omitted nothing that could acquaint him with the strong and weak Sides of the several Powers of Asia; which, together with the Correspondence he kept every where, gave him fo much Work, that he was faid to have employed daily fix Secretaries.

He was enterprizing, envied by some, and thought by many not to know how to suit to his Projects the necessary Means to make them succeed. He had a Brother seven Years younger

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than he, also an Officer in the Armies of Perfia, and who was not inferior to him with regard to Wit, but more sedate, more prudent, who examined Things more cooly, and, before he entered upon any Enterprize, always considered how he could get through it. These two Brothers lived together in a very good Understanding, and the eldest was pleased to consult the younger, whose Advice, 'tis said, proved often very useful to him.

Scadeck, fuch as we have represented him. had formed, they fay, a grand Scheme, which he communicated to the Athemadoulet 8. It was not only to fet the Crown of Mogul h on the Head of the Raja of Visapour ', by winning over some of the chief Rajas k, and intimidating the rest; but also to give a mortal Blow to the House of Delly ', by stripping it of its most confiderable Dominions, to make a Settlement for Cha-Baskan m, who of himself was not powerful enough to support the Dignity of the Imperial Crown. He shewed, that in order to make that Scheme fucceed, the Ambassador who was to be fent to Amadabat ", should be a Man perfectly acquainted with the feveral Characters of the Rajas o, capable to work upon their Mind, and well enough skilled in the Af. fairs of the Empire of Mogul, to make them fenfible, that it was their true Interest to second the Designs of Persia: That in order effectually to support those Negotiations, and to bear down for ever the House of Delly P, it was neceffary

many. 1 he Elector of Bavaria. Lectors. 1 Auftria. The Elector of Bavaria. Francfort.

** Electors. P Auftria.

ceffary to fend into the Dominions of Visapour ! an Army of a hundred thousand Men, which under the Name of auxiliary Troops to the Raja, and with a Pretence to affift him in afferting his Claim to Cha-Reffine-Frola's Succesfion, should seize upon the Principality of Delly, the Kingdom of Jenupar; and the most beautiful Provinces belonging to the Queen of Golconda', and would at the same Time keep in Awe on that Side the Rajas and other Princes, who might be favourably inclined towards that Princess: That another Army of forty thousand Men at least, should be sent into the Dominions of the Raja of Multan t, to protect them, to keep his Neighbours in Awe, and to be at Hand to enter into the Principality of Cabul, of which the Emperor of Japan, who was known to be in the Interest of the House of Delly, was ----- And above all, to make fure of the King of Zagathay ", whose late Invasion of the Province of Bacar w, was a powerful Diversion already made, which it was material to make an Advantage of: That in the mean Time the Emperor of China * should, in Conjunction with his Son the King of Cochinchina y, invade the Dominions, which the Queen of Golconda was possessed of beyond the Ganges 2; but that the Success of this Affair depended on a fpeedy Execution, and on large Sums of Money; nor could it take up above fix Months Time, if this Scheme was punctually followed.

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⁹ Bavaria. Bohemia. Hungary. The Elector of Cologne. Prussia. Silesia. The King of Spain.
Naples and Sicily. The Po, i. e. in Italy.

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Ismael-Beg a lik'd the Scheme very well, but the Expence of two Armies, amounting together to an hundred and forty thousand Men, besides the Charges of the Embassy, frightened him. He was also too short-fighted to understand that the Invasion of the Queen of Golconda's Dominions was to be confidered as a bold Stroke, for which it was absolutely necesfary to be in Arms; that otherwise, it would be giving Time to the Enemy to take fuch Measures, as to make the proposed Conquests be bought very dear, or even perhags to prevent them. But the Athemadoulet b, at the same Time that he approved the Scheme, referved to himself the Liberty of making such Alterations in it, as his faving Temper should dictate to him. However, the Author of it was rewarded with the Title of Ambassador to the Assembly of Amadabat, and honoured with the great Calaat 6, and immense Sums were remitted to him. He was ordered to practice upon the Rajas a, and other Princes of the Empire of Mogol e, whose Alliance deserved to be courted, and to spare neither Infinuations, nor Money to win them; to concert with the Raja of Visapour f, the Operations of War set down in the Scheme; and finally, to confer with the King of Zagathay 8, for the Good of the common Cause. Scadeck h omitted nothing that could render his Ambassy splendid; and he carried his Magnificence fo far, that it may fafely be faid, that they had never feen at Amadabat 1, any

² Cardinal De Fleuri. ^b Prime Minister. ^c Made Marshal of France. ^d El Etors. ^e Germany. ^f Elector of Bavaria. ^b Marshal De Bellisse. ^l Francfort.

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any Thing fo sumptuous, nor a Retinue fo numerous and fo rich. To give the Reader some Notions of the prodigious Expence he was at, it will be sufficient to observe, that every Week there set out from Ispahan k two Waggons loaded with Provisions for Amadabat, whither they arrived in very few Days, by Means of fresh Horses, which were kept at small Intervals on However he did not fet out with the Road. all the Satisfaction he could have wished. Athemadoulet declared to him, that the Sophi 1 was indeed willing to march an Army of forty thousand Men towards the Dominions of Multan m, but that he could give only the same Number to the Raja of Visapour n, with the Title of Generalissimo. Scadeck represented in the strongest Manner, that such an Army was not fufficient for the intended Operations; he went even fo far, as to fay, that it was exposing the Glory of Cha-Sephi o, and the Honour of the Nation; that it were better not to attempt any Thing, than to do fo little; wherein he was even seconded by Rhedi P, but all was to no Purpose; he was obliged to submit to his Destiny, with the Vexation of foreseeing, that so fine a Scheme should miscarry, but at the same Time with the Resolution to owe the Success of it only to his own Genius, and to the Springs he reckoned to fet a going. And indeed, he was fo much the more animated to fetch from his own Brains the Resources he. might have Occasion for, as he was sensible,

^{*} Patis. 1 The French King. m Cologne. n Elector of Bavaria. Lewis XV. P M. Orri, Comptroller-General of the Finances.

that in case of a bad Success, the Blame of it

would be entirely laid upon him.

It was with such Dispositions, that before he repaired to Amadabat, he visited the Rajas of Guzarate, Bucker, Multan and Brampour q, and some other Prince whom he thought proper to make sure of. He had room to be well pleased with the savourable Sentiments which he found in some, and with which he knew to inspire the others.

He went afterwards to the Raja of Visabour . to whom he declared the Defign Perfia . had formed to raise him to the Imperial Throne, and what he had been negotiating with the Rajas and other Princes, we have been speaking of. He also delivered up to him, in the Sophi's ' Name, the Commission by which he was appointed Generalissimo of an Army of forty thousand Persians, who were to begin their March as foon as the Seafon would permit it, besides an Army of the same Number of Men. which was to affemble on the Raja of Multan's Frontiers. As an able Minister he extolled very much those Succours, and gave Hopes to expect more, in case the Situation of Affairs should require it. "Which however did not " feem probable, faid he, if immediately after the Junction of the Persian Troops with " those of Visapour, they should attack the "Queen of Golconda " in the very Heart of " her Dominions, by marching directly to Ge-" hanabad w, the capital City of her Principa-

The Electors of Mentz, Triers, Cologne, and Palatine.

The Elector of Bavaria.

France.

The French King.

Hungary.

Wienna.

si lity of Delly : That after they had seized " upon it, which would be no difficult Mat-" ter, the whole Country would submit: That afterwards they should fall upon the Kingdom of Jenupar y, which would prove fo " much the easier a Conquest, as it were pre-" ceded by that of Delly which is in its Neigh-66 bourhood, and as the King of Zagathay 2, with whom he was ordered to confer, would " render it still easier, by the powerful Diver-" fion he had just made in the Province of Bu-" car 2." Thus Scadeck laboured betimes to improve, to the Advantage of his Enterprise, even the indifferent Means that were afforded him, and which might have proved fufficient, if they had been employed after the same Manner he proposed. Thus, in order to prevent the Raja of Visapour from being sensible of the Weakness of the Succours from Persia, he artfully infinuated to him the Plan of the Operations of the enfuing Campaign, and the Use he was to make of the Troops, the Sophi entrusted him with, in order to aggrandize himfelf at the Expence of the House of Delly.

Every thing being regulated with the Raja of Visapour, Scadeck set out to go and meet the King of Zagathay, whom he found employed in besieging one of the chief Cities of Bacar, atter a great Victory b he had gained over the Dellians c, who were at last forced to yield up to him the Field of Battle, after they had fought a long while with the utmost Bravery. Scadeck wish'd Gion-Kan 4 Joy, and commu-

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Austria. y Bohemia. 2 Prussia. Si'esia. The Battle of Moldwitz. C Austrians. d The King of Prussia.

nicated to him the Sophi's Defigns to promote the Advantage and Tranquillity of the Empire of Moguli, and his Intention to cultivate a good Understanding and perfect Friendship with the King of Zagathay. The Minister of Perfia continued but a very little Time with this Monarch, who paid him very great Honours; and having admired his Army, which was ordered to be under Arms, he fet out again for Amadabat 8. It is pretended, and not without a great Probability, that during this Interview the finishing Hand was put to the Scheme, which the two Crowns had formed before.

The Queen of Golconda h was at that Time in the most dangerous Situation. Whilst the King of Zagathay, in Conjunction with the Raja of Labor 1, was subduing with a wonderful Rapidity the Provinces of Bacar and Sambar, the Sophi and the Raja of Visapour were preparing to carry Fire and Sword into the Principality of Delly, and the Kingdom of Fenupar. At the same time the Emperor of Chinak threatened those Provinces situated beyond the Ganges 1. This Princess wanted the Sinews of War, and would have had the Vexation to see her most beautiful Provinces taken from her, without being able to defend them, had not the Japonese amongst others supported her, by furnishing her with considerable Sums, by which she was put in a Condition to raise and keep up numerous Armies, to repel her Enemies, and finally to retrieve her Affairs.

> About G 3

* The King of Spain. I In Italy.

f The German Empire. · The French King. i Elector of Saxony. h Hungary. g Francfort.

126 The SECRET HISTORY

About this Time died at Ifpahan^m, Serizadaⁿ, a Princess not above twenty-seven Years old, who did not live happy with Mirza-Haddi her Husband, who died fixteen Months before her, though she was beautiful, of an amiable Character, and inchanting Sweetness of

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In the mean time the feveral Bodies, of which the Sophi had ordered the Armies of Visapours o and Multan P to be composed, began to march. They that were defigned to ferve under the Command of the Raja of Vifapour affembled on the Borders of Persia towards Guzarate 4, and the Army of Multan had its Rendezvous in the Province of Segestan. foon of these two Armies, which were very beautiful, were affembled, the latter, being an Army of Observation, took post in the Dominions of Multan!, and continued there this whole Campaign, and part of the following, without committing any Act of Hostility. It was commanded by Azer, a Man of Wit, who by a late Expedition against rebellious Islanders ' had deserved the great Calaat ". He passed for a good Officer, and yet his Capacity was not univerfally acknowledged.

The former, of which Schadeck whad the Command, independently from his Character of Embassador to the Assembly of Amadabat, marched to Visapour, where it arrived after a long and difficult March. It was joined there by

Paris. The young Dutchess of Bourbon. Bavaria. P Cologne. Mentz. Cologne. Marshalde Maille bois. The Corsicans. Marshals Staff. Marshal de Bellisse. The Diet of Franctort.

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by thirty thousand Visapourians, making thus an Army of seventy thousand Men, at the Head of which the Raja of Visapour set himfelf as Generalissimo. He marched immediately towards the Province of Delly 2, as though his Defign had been to go directly to the Capital; upon which Schadeck, as we have already observed, had so well shewed him how necesfary and even easy it was to seize. If he had done this, he would have put the Queen of Golconda a under the greatest Perplexity. on the first Report of Cha-Bascan's being entered into the Principality of Delly, Nagar had taken the Alarm, and was retired into Golconda d with her whole Court, and left but a weak Garrison at Gehanabade, with Orders to repair the ancient Fortifications, and to raise some new Works if they had Time.

Cha-Bascan had quite other Views than befieging the Capital of Delly: He would begin
with the Conquest of the Kingdom of Jenupar, of which his Design was to cause himself to be elected and crowned King. But in
order to prevent the Persian Officers from discovering his Intentions, he thought proper to
begin with seizing upon some inconsiderable
Frontier Towns, and the Moment it was least
expected he sell on a sudden upon the Kingdom of Jenupar. Nessir, who was sent to
command under him, because Scadeck could
not be at the same Time at the Head of the
Army, and at Amadabat, represented to him
the dangerous Consequence of such a Step;

Bavarians. ² Austria. ² Hungary. ^b The late Elector of Bavaria. ^c The Queen of Hungary. ^d Hungary. ^e Vienna. ^f Bohemia. ^g Marshal de Broglio.

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but to no Purpose: Nothing could persuade him to alter his March: He left indeed in the Principality of Delly, Kazach a Persian Officer, with a Body of ten thousand Men, most of them Persians, to keep that Province in Awe, and defend the Places he had taken. After these Regulations, which he judged sufficient, he divided his Army into several Columns, and continued his March to Jenupar ' the Capital of the Kingdom, under the Walls of which all his Troops were commanded to join, in order to undertake the Siege of it. The Queen of Golconda had no Army in that Country, but only a few Troops of Light Horse, dispersed here and there, and less formidable than they were troublesome by harraffing Cha-Bascan's Troops; so that he arrived with very little Loss before Jenupar, which was immediately invested. The Garrifon confisted at most of two thousand Men regular Troops, who did hardly let off one fingle Musket, and the Town wanted Ammunition: The bad Condition of the Place was well known; so that Cha-Bascan was not in a Humour to besiege it in Form, but resolved to make himself Master of it by means of the Correspondence he had with some Persons in the Town, or to take it by Storm. And it was accordingly taken by Scalado in a few Days time; a Feat of War so much the more glorious, as it happens but feldom. The Project and Execution of it were owing to Kalife-Sultan k, a brave and experienced Officer, in whom the Troops reposed a great Confidence.

h M de Segur. 1 Prague k The Count of Saxe.

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He was the Son of Mahmoud King of Thibet 1, whom we have already mentioned, by one of his Favourites of an illustrious Family. He was several Years in the Service of Persia, and Cha-Sephi m loved him extremely. He had a lean Face, a Complexion somewhat tanned, a robust Air, a tall Shape, and an extraordinary Strength. His Wit was delicate, and his Conversation amiable. He was inclined to Love, and was reckoned to have superior Talents that way, a kind of Merit which made him very much esteemed by the Ladies, amongst whom it was afferted, that he had gained a very great Reputation. It has been reported that he fell passionately in Love with a Girl, named Zilamira " who was incomparable in the Art of representing the Passions, but less famous still by that Qualification, than by her Wit, and her noble Sentiments. She was visited at her own House by all the Persons of Rank and Distinction at Ispahano, and died in a few Hours in the most violent Pains, which gave room to suspect she had been poisoned. People went even so far as to say, that she fell a Sacrifice to the Resentment of a Woman, who was jealous of the too frequent Visits Kalife-Sultan paid her. Soon after her Death there was a great Talk of some pretended Letters between that Lord and her. But whether it be, that they were suppressed, or that that Report was ill-grounded, none of those Letters have ever been published.

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¹ Augustus King of Poland, and Father to the prefent King. m Lewis XV. n Mad. Le Couvreur an Actress. Paris.

As foon as every thing was settled at Jenupar P, Cha-Baskan was elected and crowned King with the Acclamations of the Inhabitants, who thought themselves happy that the Conqueror would not use them with the utmost

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Rigour, according to the Laws of War.

Fortune did not prove so favourable to this. Prince in the Principality of Delly 9, nor even in his own Dominions of Visapour . Kazac , who, as we have observed, was left with a Body of ten thousand Men, to secure the Conquests made in that Principality, finding himfelf too weak to keep the Field before Baker ', a Golcondeze General, retired under the Walls of Secandra ", a pretty strong Town on the River Gemene w, by which he hoped to receive his Convoys. But Baker cut him off from all Communication with it, and reduced him in a few Days to an absolute Want of Provisions. Kazac, being deprived of every Resource, chose to capitulate rather than to force, Sword in Hand, an honourable Passage at the Head of his little Army. This did him no Honour, though it has been afferted, that he produced in his own Vindication, Orders in Writing from Ismael-Beg x to act thus; Which is not improbable; confidering that he was well received by the Sophi v, and employed afterwards. But a Fault, from which he could not clear himself, was the Want of taking the Precaution to have it inserted in the Capitulation what Route his

P Prague. q Austria. Bavaria. M. De Segur. Count Traun. Lintz. w The Danube. Cardinal De Fleuri. y The French. King.

Troops were to take in their Retreat; fo that they were forced to make a long and painful March, in which the greatest Part of his Soldiers perished, who were even refused the Necessaries of Life. Kazac was a tall Man, handfome and well-shaped; he had a sprightly Wit, and was very gay, and proper for the Court, where his Handsomeness gained him more Reputation, than his Ability in War. Baker, after this Expedition, fubdued in a very little Time the Remainder of the Principality of

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Xara a, at the Head of another Army, entred Visapour b. He overthrew Rezza e, a General little capable to ftop him; and deftroying all before him with Fire and Sword, he made himself Master of the chief Towns, and marched to the Capital, which he befieged. It made a vigorous Defence, but was at last forced to furrender. The Golcondeze d were reproached not only with plundering all the Houses, and the Raja's Palace, from whence they carried off great Treasures, but also with. committing all manner of Cruelties. The fingle Particular we are going to relate, will be fufficient to give fome Notion of the Barbarity with which they are faid to have used the Conquered. A rich Merchant, feeing the Enemy on the Point of feizing a Bridge, which communicated with the Town, caused it to be broke down immediately; and from his House, which food over-against it, and in which he had gathered a few choice Men, he annoyed the Befiegers very much. After the Town had furrendered,

b Bavaria. 2 Count Khevenhuller. Z Austria. e Elector. Count Thoring. d Austrians.

rendered, the Golcondeze, far from having a Respect for that brave Man, who had done nothing but his Duty, by fighting for his Prince and for his Country, hanged him up at the End of that same Bridge he had so well defended. Xara having taken the Capital City, became soon Master of the whole Country; so that Cha-Baskan within one single Campaign, found himself without any Dominions, and obliged to lead a pretty sad Life at Amadabat s,

where he kept his Court.

This Misfortune, together with the March of Prince Salcher h, Brother-in-law to the Queen of Golconda i, determined the combined Army of Zagathay and Lahor to retire. They evacuated the Province of Sambal. But a Mifunderstanding arising between the Chiefs, their Armies separated, and that of Labor went to join the Persians in the Kingdom of Jenupar. In the mean time, Prince Salcher followed the King of Zagathay so close, that this Monarch could not avoid coming to a Battle. It was fought in the Plain of Kuffala 1. The Dellians " bore down every thing before them; and penetrating to the Body of Referve, they entred into the Enemy's Camp. There the Soldiers, eager after Spoil, disband, and fall a plundering; a Fault too common in Armies. The King of Zagathay improves the Opportunity, rallies his Troops, falls upon the Dellians, makes a prodigious Slaughter of them, and fnatches Victory out of their Hands.

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The Queen of Golconda began then to think of drawing Gion-Kan n off from the Grand Alliance, by giving up to him Part of what he had conquered. Phose Negociations could not be so secret, but something of it got Wind. Neffir o had even acquainted the Court of Persia with it, and sent Word several Times, that the King of Zagathay was by no means to be trusted; that he minded nothing but his own Advantage, that they would foon fee him take the Queen of Golconda's Part, or at least, make a Peace with her, without any Regard for Persia and her Allies. They gave so much the less Credit to those Advices in Persia, as Scadeck P, who notwithstanding his Penetration and Wit fuffered himself to be deluded by that Prince, to whom he went very often, wrote quite the contrary. However, those Rumours were but too well grounded, and the Event shewed that Neffir was not mistaken. For the King of Zagathay did really conclude a Treaty of Peace with the Queen of Golconda, and drew back his Troops. This Princess had even the Satisfaction soon after to see the Raja of Lahor a accede to that Treaty, by means of the good Offices of the King of Fapan.

The King of Zagathay's Conduct was generally condemn'd, and cast a Blemish on his Glory, which he could never blot out. Persia would have warded off that Blow, if instead of forty thousand Men, Ismael-Beg', being less saving, had sent an hundred thousand to the Raja of Visapour; for the great Superiority of such

The King of Prussia. O Marshal De Broglio.
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fuch an Army would have kept the King of Zagathay in Awe. However that be, after Gion-Kan's Defection, the Queen of Golconda being at Liberty to make such use as she pleased of the Troops she had sent against him, caused them to march immediately into the Kingdom of Jenupar's, and, as her Subjects were very zealous and active to furnish her with Succours, the found herself soon in a Condition to make herself be dreaded, and the more so, as the Persian Army had been considerably lessened by Sickness and Mortality. What remained of it was dispersed into several Quarters distant from each other, and which had not even an eafy, Communication with one another. It was the Raja of Vijapourt, who against Neffir's " Advice, had made that ill-contrived Disposition. It was even faid, that Scadeck w, who made feveral Journies from Amadabat x to the Army, had advised it; and though it be not agreeable to that great Capacity he was reckoned to have in Warlike Matters, yet it is certain that the Blame of it was laid upon him. Soon after this strange Work, Gha-Bascon, who had been just elected Emperor of Migul 2, left the Command of the Army to Neffir, and went to Amadabat, there to receive the Imperial Crown.

Towards the Begining of the Year there appeared a Comet, which continued visible during a whole Moon: It was very bright, and its Tail, which seemed hairy, stretched very far towards the North. Its Bigness and long Continuance gave Rise to several Conjectures, to which

Bohemia. * Elector of Bavaria. * Broglio.

* Belleisle. * Francfort. * The late Elector of Bavaria. * Germany.

which, independently from the Concouse of the Comet, the Situation of Affairs were more than sufficient to give some Weight. But thus the Vulgar are easily frightened by those Meteors, though very natural, and do always infer from thence some sinister Prognosticks, which have no other Foundation but Ignorance.

The Queen of Golconda's Army was still advancing by long Marches, towards the Kingdom of Jenupar, and received daily confiderable Reinforcements. Neffir, who was informed of it, gave Orders to break up the Quarters; but by Reason of their great Distance from one another, and the Want of Communication, it was not possible to bring them together. Alk that could be done was to form, with great Difficulty, two or three Bodies, and to endeavour to join them immediately: But the Enemy, being much superior, gave not Time to do it. Neffir, who commanded the most considerable Body, had just met with some Loss, which determined him to retire under the Walls of Jenupar *, and to put that Town in a Condition to make a stout Defence. As he had made it his Place of Arms, and it was pretty well provided, he reckoned to make the Golcondeze pay dear for the Conquest of it. He put Part of his Troops into the Town, and made the Rest encamp round its Walls, behind strong Entrenchments, which he caused to be raised. and to which he added all that his Experience made him judge proper. Scadeck c came to him, and shut himself up with him behind those Intrenchments. The Golcondeze, commanded by

² Prague.

Austrians.

Belleifle.

by Prince Salcher 4 appeared very foon before the Place. Scadeck offered immediately to furrender the Town to the Queen's Troops, provided the Army and Garrison were suffered to retire. Prince Salcher accepted the Offer for the Army only, but infifted upon the Garrison's being made Prisoners of War. Scadeck and Nessir rejected that Condition, and were immediately belieged in Form: But as they were entrenched up to the Chin, the Siege went on very flowly: And the Besiegers finding it was scarce possible to force the Persians, resolved to turn the Siege into a Blockade. Salcher shut up all the Passes so well, that Scadeck and Nessir could by no means have any Communication with the Country round about. In the mean time, a large Detachment of Golcondeze scoured the Country, and gave no Quarter to the Persians. One of those Parties came to a Place of no Defence, and of which the Persians had made an Hospital, where there were at least eight hundred Sick, guarded by about two hundred Men, who furrendered immediately; but they were all unmercifully put to the Sword.

The Queen of Golconda, being encouraged by those Successes, gave Orders at last to besiege Jenupar. Salcher made immediately all the necessary Dispositions to force Nessir's Intrenchments. They were attacked with Vigour, and defended with no less Bravery. In vain did the Golcondeze return to the Charge several Days following, they could not get an Inch of Ground. Salcher, seeing his Troops were discouraged, and that he had sacrificed a great many Men to

& Prince Charles.

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no Purpose, resumed his former Project, which was to keep the Enemies blockaded. and to take them by Famine. This Project would infallibly have succeeded, if Cha-Sephie, being informed of the fad Condition his Troops were in, had not sent the Army of Multan , to their Asfistance. A vast number of Persians died for Want in a few Months: And they who escaped Death, were reduced to eat the Flesh of their own Horses; a Pound of which was even sold. towards the End of the Blockade, for four or five Mamoudies 8. It was afferted, that Ismael-Beg h had carefully kept secret from the Sophi !. the Situation Nessir was in, and that that Prince came to know it only by a Letter, which some Body found Means to convey into the Hands of Retima k: After the had read it. the left it without any Affectation upon a Table, not doubting but that the Sopbi being curious, and perhaps jealous, would not fail to take it up and read it. This innocent Stratagem succeeded, and Cha-Sephi came to know by that Means, to what Extremity Nessir was reduced. He seemed nettled, but his Foible for Ismael-Beg was so great, that he did not use him less kindly for it; he contented himself with assembling the Divan 1 in his Prefence, where is was debated, whether or not the Troops that up in the Town of Jenupar, should be succoured. The Athemadoulet m declared for the Negative, and represented what immenfe

f Cologne. · King Lewis XV. 8 A Mainordy is about Twelve-pence Half penny French Money, which comes to about Six pence Sterling. b Cardinal de Fleury. 1 The French King. k Madem. De 1 The Council. Mailli, the King's Mistress. The Cardinal Prime Minister.

immense Sums had already been spent in Favour of a Prince, who did not help himself: But most of the Ministers, and especially Rhedin, who spoke with Vigour, tho' he owed his Elevation to Ismael-Beg, represented that it concerned the Sophi's Glory, and the Honour of the Nation, not only to extricate Neffir out of his present Difficulties, but also to support Cha-Bascan o, so much the more effectually, as they had already done a great deal for him; and finally, that the Danger being imminent, they were, without any further Debate, immediately to order Azer p to march with the utmost Diligence to Jenupar 9. Rhedi went even so far as to say, that no Money would be wanted, and that he had at least three Millions of Tomans ready for that Expedition. It was therefore resolved to succour Nester, and Azer was accordingly ordered to march with the utmost Expedition. At that News his Army shewed an unexpressible Joy, and so much Zeal and Ardour, as gave the greatest Hopes, that notwithstanding the great Distance, it would arrive foon enough to difengage Neffir. In the mean time, the Court of Persia was under very great Uneasiness, from which it did not recover, 'till Newscame that Azer was arrived on the Borders of the Kingdom of Jenupar', and had been joined by Ten Thousand Men, who had been fent some Month's before, but could not penetrate into the Country: And finally, that notwithstanding Salcher had raifed the Blockade to come and meet Azer, he was in Hopes to join Nessir very soon, who

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Mr. Orri, Comptroller-General of the Finances.
The Elector of Bavaria, then Emperor of Germany.
Marshal De Maillebois.
Prague.
Toman is worth about Two Pounds Sterling, or Forty-five Livres French Money. This Note is in the Original.
Bohemia.

on his Side was also marching with Part of his Troops to facilitate the Junction; whilst Scadeck' remained with the rest at Jenupar. Kalife-Sultan's who was perfectly well acquainted with the Country, had also joined Azer with about fourteen Thousand Men, and in a Council of War, he engaged his Life, that he would lead the Army without any Opposition, through a Defile which he was acquainted with. But nothing could perfuade Azer to march forward: Whether he was struck with a Panic, or had private Orders from Ismael-Beg, as it was suspected he had, at the Head of a fine Army of near Sixtythousand Men, all in high Spirits, and wishing for nothing but to go and meet the Enemy, he retired, and marched towards the River of Gemené u, with a Defign to get into Visapouran .. Azer's Conduct was so much the more to be blamed, as the intended Junction was of the utmost importance, and he was strong enough to effect it in Spight of the Galcondeze. This General was indeed re-called, and turned out of Favour; but too late, for the Ardour of his Troops was now flackened, and the Rigour of the Season, which was become excessive, whilst they were losing Time in Councils of War and Deliberations, had carried off a great Number of Men.

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It must be confessed, that Persia took the worst Course: As her Design was to deliver the Army besieged at Jenupar, the easiest Way to effect it was, to fend Azer's Army into the Country of Visapour x, from which it was at no great Distance, and into which it might have marched

w Baya-" The Danube. t Count De Saxe. ria. * Bavaria.

marched in a few Days, without meeting with any great Opposition. This Diversion would infallibly have disengaged Nessir, because it would have obliged Prince Salcher to leave the Kingdom of Jenupar, in order to march to the Affistance of Velapour, and to cover Gehanabad v. which had been in Danger. This Operation was at last resolved upon, but the proper Time was past: Azer's Army was reduced to the greatest Distress, and its Ruin was compleated by a long and troublesome March, without Magazines, without Provisions, through a Country but little fruitful of itself, and already ruined by the Passage both of Friends and Enemies; add' to this, that that Army was inceffantly harraffed by Salcher, who followed it. However, the Arrival of this Army, though very much impaired, into the Country of Visapour, contributed to recover it. But, notwithstanding, the Supplies which the Sophy 2 fent thither, Neffir 2, who after Azer's Difgrace, had took the Command upon him, could not keep that Country. The Dellians a drove him out of the Dominions of Visapour, which were taken and re-taken three Times, and at last entirely ruined at the third Conquest the Queen of Golconda made of them.

The Persians were still Masters of some Towns in the Kingdom of Jenupar, which were successively besieged. Scadeck was shut up in the Capital with about eleven thousand Men, exclusive of the Sick. When Prince Salcher marched out of that Kingdom to follow the Army

y Vienna.

2 The French King.

2 Broglio.

3 Austrians.

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2 The French King.

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Army of Azer, he left there Zieki with Orders to invest Jenupar again. That General obeyed. and cut of all Communication which Scadeck might have with the neighbouring Country: But after two Months Blockade Scadeck formed a Project to get out of the Place, and to conceal his Retreat from the Enemy. In order to secure the Success of so great an Enterprize, and to put the Charge even upon his own Troops, four Days before the Execution of it he ordered the Garrison to get ready for a General Sally: in consequence of which, the Soldiers were provided with a certain Quantity of Provisions, and all the Horses that were in the Town were taken up, and distributed amongst the several Bodies. Scadeck did not make his Defign known till the Day before his Departure, and marched out before Break of Day, at the Head of ten thousand Men, with fixteen hundred Horse, a Train of Field-Pieces, Waggons, Baggage, and Caissons. He took with him feveral Hostages, both to answer for the Security of the Sick, and by way of Reprifals for what happened at the taking of Vifapour . He had provided himself with Money by very large Contributions he raifed from the Inhabitants of Jenupar', for the Payment of which they had stripped themselves of every thing that was valuable. At his Departure he took the Precaution to cause the Gates of the City to be shut, to prevent Zieki, who had some Correspondence in the Town, from being informed of what happened. His Measures were fo well taken, that some of the Enemy's Patroles meeting with his Van-Guard imagined the

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the Persians were going to a general Forage. But though he was by two Marches beforehand with Zieki, yet he was overtaken by some Light Horse. He lost at least three thousand Men by the Enemy's Sword, by Defertion, and by the Severity of the Weather, which was excessive cold. Almost all his Artillery, his Baggage, and even his own Equipage, and that of the Commissary General of his Army, were carried He had left in the Town a General Officer, and about nine hundred Men, with Orders to furrender upon the best Terms he could. Eight Days after he left the Place, Zieki summoned the Officer, who obtained an honourable Capitulation, the Garrison being suffered to march out with all the Honours of War. They found in the Town a numerous Artillery, a large Magazine of Ammunition in the Castle, Pontoons, a vast Number of Warlike Engines, and above three thousand Sick, who were made Prisoners of War. Notwithstanding the Misfortunes, which Scadeck met with in his Retreat, he deserves the greatest Elogies, since the Success of his Enterprize was, if not impossible, at least extremely difficult; for Zieki had caused all the Bridges to be broke down; and Scadeck laboured under an Indisposition, which did not fuffer him to ride on Horseback: Notwithstanding which, he did not abandon his little Army, and caused himself to be carried to every Post where his Presence might be necessary. The Reward he had for so much Care and Fatigue was, that upon his Arrival at Court, he met with so cold a Reception, that he judged proper

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The Queen of Golconda i celebrated the Surrender of Fenupar k by one of the most sumptuous, and most gay Entertainments, which she gave the Court at Gebanadab! It was a Race of Horses and Chariots, after the Manner of the Greeks, so much the more remarkable, as there were none but Ladies, at the Head of whom were Nagar m and her Sifter Remana, who entered the Lift to contend for the Prize. A Shew till then unheard of in the whole Empire of Mogul", and perhaps in all the rest of the World.

Soon after this, she established at Jenupar , a Tribunal to try the Citizens, and even the most eminent of them. It cost their Lives to some, and immense Sums to others. The Pretence of Punishments was, that they had shewed too great an Affection for Cha-Baskan; the true Crime of most of them was thought to be that they were very rich, and that Nagar P wanted confiderable and quick Supplies. The Severity this Princess exerted on that Occasion, far from diminishing the Notion of Cruelty her Enemies had conceived concerning her, ferved only to make it stronger. We have mentioned this Princess so often, that it is proper to acquaint the Reader a little more particularly with her Character, and with those of the Prince her Spouse, and of Prince Salcher her Brother-in-

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h Paris. 1 Hungary. k Prague. 1 Vienna. m The Queen of Hungary. " Germany. Prague. P The Queen of Hungary.

Nagar, Queen of Golconda and Jenupar 9 was young, of a proper Size, and exceedingly beautiful in the Opinion of some People. She had a full Face, a large and high Forehead, fine Eyes, a haughty Look, a steady Air, a Nose fomewhat too narrow, a pretty beautiful Mouth. though her Lips were thick, a fine Complexion, and a noble Gate. She had a great deal of Wit, and a Steadiness of Mind seldom to be met with in a Person of her Sex. She was imperious, passionate and vindictive, but generous and thankful; she loved to command, and would be punctually obey'd. The Cruelty of her Troops, and her fevere Usage towards the Cities of Visapour and Jenupar 1, gave her, perhaps with some Reason, the Reputation of loving to fprinkle her Laurels with Blood, and making War like a raging Woman. It is true indeed, that her Enemies Obstinacy in stripping her of her Dominions, and the Extremities to which she had been reduced, were sufficient Motives to inspire her with Resentment, and to make her wish for an Opportunity to be revenged: But the unexpected Return of Fortune ought to have smother'd those ungenerous Sentiments, and to have left her nothing but a noble Ambition to excel above her Enemies by a Greatness of Mind, and conquer them by fair Play. Upon the whole, her Constancy in Adversity, and the Means she found to retrieve her Affairs, deserve as much to be commended, as the was blamed for her Obstinacy in refusing to acknowledge, as Head of the Empire, the Prince, whom the Rajas had elected, and confequently in protracting a War which cost the

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Hungary and Bavaria. Munich and Prague.

Empire of Mogul', and all Afia ', fo much Blood.

Narsic, Prince of Aracam ", and her Spouse, was of a middling Size, of a pretty vulgar Physicognomy, though he had fine Features enough. He was good-natured, had a narrow Genius, and no Capacity for War, and not even gained any Reputation in his Campaigns. The Queen his Consort had associated him in the Government, to do herself Honour, rather than for any Occasion she thought she had for him, or for any Use she foresaw she could make of

him in that Respect.

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His Brother Salcher was tall, well shaped, but very ill favoured with the Small-Pox. He loved War and understood it; was brave, beloved by the Soldiers, but little by the Officers, whom he used sometimes with two much Haughtiness. He was active, vigilant, at least in the Morning, for he was reckon'd to care but little for the Affairs of War after Dinner. His illustrious Descent. and the Title of Brother-in-law to the Queen of Golconda gave him a great Authority; and Nagar, by bestowing upon him the Chief Command of her Armies, acted most prudently, and prevented thereby the Jealoufy and Misunderstanding, which do but too much prevail amongst Generals, who generally speaking will yield nothing to one another, with regard to Birth, Merit and Capacity.

In the mean time, the Sophi x, being tired with a ruinous War, offered to retire his Troops, and to leave to the Empire the Care of sup-

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fupporting the Head it had chosen. After some Difficulties raised by the Queen of Golconda, those Offers were at last accepted. In Consequence of which Neffir y affembled his Troops, and marched towards the Indus 2. He was obliged to give Hostages for a Security that he would commit no Hostilities in his Retreat : A very needless Precaution, since Salcher with his Army followed the Perfians to the very Borders of their Country. Of about an hundred and thirty thousand Men, which the Sophi had at different Times sent into the Empire of Mogul b, Neffir brought back but twenty-five thoufand; and not so many by far, according to some: But what all are agreed in is, that the few who returned were in a deplorable Condi-It is reckoned that Cha-Sephi c lost in two Campaigns, not by the Sword, for there was but little Blood shed, but by Want, Cold and Desertion, at least fourscore thousand Men of his finest Troops; a considerable Loss and very difficult to repair! It cost him above seven Millions of Tomans d, a great many brave Officers, and a vast Number of Persons charged with divers Functions relating to the Service of Armies.

Nessir, having quartered his Troops on the Frontiers, went to Court, where he met with a very bad Reception. This General, whose Courage and Conduct at Junepar o was so much extolled, that he was looked upon as the only Warrior Persia had, did not meet with one single

French. b Germany. Lewis XV. 2 Vide

Note (r) p. 138. Prague.

gle Friend, who would or dared to speak in his Favour. And this brave Officer, whom even the Enemy admired and respected, was ordered to retire upon his Estate. Some have imagined that Cha-Sephi resolved to turn him out of Favour, only to please Cha-Bascan , who did not Others pretend, that he did really love him. act very well at first; but that at last he had no longer any Judgment, and that instead of minding his Profession, he spent his Time in eating and drinking, which he was charged to love to an Excess. However that be, it cannot be denied but that an Officer of three-score and fifteen at least, who was known to be brave, and who had well ferved, was worthy of another Fate; especially after a War so difficult, that it is confessed, that they who carried it on, suffered more in two Campaigns than is commonly done in twenty. Neffir had a Brother, who followed the Profession of an Iman 1. Name was Mahamet-Neffir 8. He had formerly kept Company with great Folks, and made a Noise at Court, as much by the Character of his Wit, by his Sprightliness and Goodhumour, as by his Talents and Inclination for Feafting and Hunting. He was pretty often at Sevagi's h, which procured him the Honour of being often admitted into Cha-Sephi's Parties of Pleasure. He knew very well how to pay his Court, and was a Man pretty much in Vogue, though he had passed the Bloom of his Age, and had a pretty rough Physiognomy. Being

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Clergyman. B Abbé De Broglio, Abbot of the Monastery of Mount St. Michael. The Count of Toulouse.

all of a sudden seized with a Disgust for the World, he had, foon after Sevagi's Death, confined himself to a solitary Place with some Faguirs, whose Chief he was, and to whom he proved an Example by his regular Life. His Retirement surprized both the Court and the City; and they who knew him suspected very much that he would not constantly pursue a kind of Life so opposite to his Character. And vet, whether it was that he had a fincere Zeal, or feared to expose himself to the World's Talk, he persevered: And nothing but the dangerous Situation of his Brother in the Kingdom of Jenupar k, could determine him to appear again at Court, whither he went to follicite for his Deliverance. Having obtained his End, he returned to his Desert, and never left it fince.

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It was now two Years fince the Japanese behaved towards the Crown of Persia after such a manner, as might be judged infulting. Ismael-Beg 1 had not taken any Notice of it, and his Regard to them did not perhaps contribute a little to render them more enterprizing. In order to awe them, and to make them respect the Name of Persia, they had made in that Country great Preparations by Sea; which appeared fo much the more furprizing, as the Marine of Persia was not reckoned to be upon a very good Footing. The Command of the Fleet was given to Tachmené m, second Son to Zelida by her first Husband. He was a Lord of about thirty Years of Age, who had made Navigation

Monks. k Bohemia. Cardinal De Fleury.

The Chevalier D'Antin. B The Countess of Toulouse.

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vigation his particular Study, which he wished very much had been more valued by the Perfians, than it really was. He had carried his Attention to the most minute Particulars, and, when an Opportunity offered, he had not neglected to make himself acquainted with the Marine of the Nations that are most famous by Sea. He was tall, and fo lufty for his Age, that his Gate seemed constrained. He had a round Face, a Forehead small rather than large, black and deep Eyes, an Afpect generally pretty rough, a Look which sometimes seemed perplexed, a short Nose that turned up, a pretty flat but agreeable Mouth, a fair Complex on adorned with a beautiful Red. His Voice was strong, his Way of speaking lively, and his Constitution robust and vigorous. His Genius was not sprightly but accurate; he was humane, very regular in his Manners, and had gained an universal Esteem. He was a real Friend, and delighted in doing Service. They who did not know him thoroughly, found him fometimes cold and of an uneasy Temper, but his Friends were fatisfied that his Coldness and fad Temper, were not effential to his Character, which was excellent. He was naturally gay, and loved to rally, but he did it always without offending even those to whom he owed no Regard. As he was never present at any Fight, one could. not determine, whether he was brave or not: But he was too well born to give any Room to fear that he would have forgot himself on those Occasions, in which he would have been called upon to shew his Courage. After a Navigation of about ten Months, which gave the Japonese some Uneasiness, and during which his Health H 3

was impaired, he retired very ill into the Ports of Persia, he was set on Shore with much Difficulty, and died within a sew Days. They who had most assiduously paid their Court to him in his Life-time, held, after his Death, such Discourses as were injurious to his Memory: Some afferted that he died of the Wounds he received in a Duel he fought with an Officer of his Fleet. But People of Sense, or better acquainted with the Truth of the Matter, despised all these Reports, and did truly lament his Death. He left a Widow very rich, beautiful and young, by whom he had no Children. Zelida, who loved him very much, was ex-

tremely afflicted for his Death.

In the Beginning of the second War of 7emupar o, there arrived at Ispahan P a Turkish Embaffador, who was faid to be charged with very important Negotiations, but, in Reality, only with a Treaty of Commerce. He had a numerous Attendance, and made a very magnificent Entry. Ibbi q was ordered to accompany him in that Ceremony. This Embassador, whose Name was Horeb, was upon the Decline of his Age, of a middling Size, and of a venerable Air: He had a grave Countenance, and brifk and sprightly Eyes. He had a great deal of Wit, a pretty extensive Knowledge, an engaging Behaviour, an easy Politeness, and liked very much to live in Persia. He was thought to have had fome Love Intrigues, which were not much known; but some of the chief Perfons of his Retinue were engaged in fuch Intrigues as made a great Noise; so that he was obliged

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bliged to use his Authority to put a Stop to them. As it is the Custom in Persia to pay all the Charges of the Turkish Embassadors, he desired that he might have himself the Management of his own Expences, and that for this Purpose, the Sums assigned for his Use might be delivered to him; wherein he was charged with a Design of getting Money, which Charge was not ill-grounded, for he was far from being generous.

He led a most agreeable Life at Ispahan, and when he set out from that City, Cha-Sephi loaded him with rich Presents for the Emperor his Master, which were more costly than those he had brought for the Sophi, tho' these were also very fine. He also received Presents both for himself and for his Attendants, with which he had Reasons to be satisfied. He continued above a Year at Ispahan, and did not leave it without Sorrow.

Soon after the Arrival of this Embassador, Cha-Sephi sent one to the Emperor of China's, charged with Negotiations relating to the Projects of these two Crowns against the House of Delly's, but chiefly to the Conclusion of the Marriage of one of the Princesses of China, with the presumptive Heir to the Crown of Persia; a young Prince thirteen Years of Age, handsome, of a lively Genius, sometimes difficult to govern, but who gave great Hopes. The Embassador's Name was Boubec-Kan *: He was a tall Man, of a great deal of Wit, who spoke very well, was full H 4

tria. The Dauphin. W The Biffurp of Rennes.

of Sprightliness, but his undevout Air did not agree very well with the Profession of a Moullah * which he followed, and for which he did not feem to be born: So that it was feared he would not succeed in a Court so devout as that of Peking y. He was artful and diffembling, and was thought to be guilty of fome mean Proceedings unbecoming his Character. He was cavilling, mistrustful, covetous, and so passionate, that fometimes he broke out into very indecent Difcourses. He was very well received by Gelaleddin 2, but little entertained by the Chinese Lords, who had so much the less Esteem for him, as his Reputation was got there before him. Men were surprized at the Court of Persia 2, that the Athemadoulet should have made such a Choice. But they who pretended to guess at his Reasons, imagined, that Ismael-Beg b was glad to take that Opportunity for fending out of the Way with Honour, a Man, whose intreaguing Genius he dreaded.

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The King of Nechal^c, as we have already obferved, had declared himself for the Queen of Golconda^d, and having joined the Dellians^c, he marched against the Chinese and Cochinchinese^f, who had invaded the Dominions of the House of Delly, situated beyond the Ganges^g, under the Command of Bedreddin^h, a Chinese Officer, samous by the Conquests he had made some

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fome Years before of the Kingdom of Cochinchina. The Court of Peking, being very ill fatisfied with the little Progress he made, recalled him, and fent in his Stead Segedin', who fucceeding no better, for want of fufficient Troops, justified thereby the Conduct of his Predeceffor. He did even find himself in a very perplexing Situation, because the King of Cochinchina had retired his Troops, and declared for a Neutrality, being awed, no doubt, by the faponese Men of War, which appeared on his Coast, and threatened to make a Descent there. Segedin, being considerably weakened by the Retreat of the Cochinchinese, resolved: prudently to retire so far, that he might have no Reason to fear any Attempt against him. This wife Precaution would however have proved useless, and that General would soon have been obliged to give up the Game, the Enemy following him from Post to Post, if Gelaleddin 1 had not made in the Principality of Jesova m a Diversion, which obliged the King of Necbal" to run thither with the best Part of the Troops he had joined with those of the Queen of Golconda . This Diversion, the Defign of which was to penetrate into the Dominions of Nagar p through those of Korfula, and thus to join Segedin, gave that General at first a little more Elbow-room. The Principality of Jesova was conquered in a very little Time, and the Capital City taken by Negeddin 9, the Sophi's Son-in-Law, to whom his Father, the Emperor of China, had committed that Expe-

M. De Gages. k Naples. 1 The King of Spain.

Savoy. n Sardinia. o Hungary. P The Queen of Hungary, 9 Don Philip. The King of Spain.

dition. Korfula did not fuffer that young Prince to enjoy his Conquests long, he made him leave them with the same Rapidity as he had taken them. Negeddin demanded fuch Supplies as might put him in a Condition to retrieve that Loss immediately: He not only received them, but Gelaleddin t fent him also Soulaki " to command under him, instead of Yerid w, who was found too flow, and was also charged with being the Cause of the Loss of the Principality of Fesova. Soulaki, who was more brisk and enterprizing, enter'd again into Jesova, and having made himself Master of a Castle, the Garrison of which was made Prisoners of War, he marched to Korfula, with a Defign to give him Battle; but he found him so advantageously posted, that he did not think proper to attack him-The two Armies continued two Days in fight of each other: And when it was least expected, Necbal marched off, and retired into another of his Principalities*, contiguous to that of Fesova, leaving the latter to the Disposal of Negeddin, who was received in the Capital as a Conqueror. This Proceeding made the Queen of Golconda , and the Emperor of Japan very uneafy, and gave room to suspect that there was some Treaty on foot between that Monarch and the Court of China; but he removed that Suspicion, and satisfied his Allies, justifying his Retreat by the want of Forage, the Weakness of his Troops, who were extremely fatigued, and the Enemy's Superiority.

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The Chinese being Masters of the whole Country, in which they cantoned, exacted

^{*} M. De la Mina. * M. De Glimes. * Piedmont.

Hungary.

great Contributions from the Inhabitants, waiting for confiderable Supplies from Perfia, by which they reckoned to force the Passes in the following Spring. In the mean time Negeddin 2, in the midst of the Pleasures, which he had again introduced into the Capital 2, was in danger of losing his Life, his Appartment taking Fire in the Night-time: One of his Guards, full of Zeal and Intrepidity broke the Door of his Bed-chamber, carried the Prince away still sleeping, and saved his Life: There was no Time to lose; for a few Moments after, the Floor fell in, and the whole Appartment was reduced to Ashes. Negedin, full of Gratitude rewarded his Deliverer most generously. This Accident, occasioned only by a want of Precaution, was suspected to be the Effect of Korfula's Revenge, or at least of the Hatred his Subjects entertained against their new Ma-Thus People imagined remote Causes of that Accident, as injurious to the King of Necbal's Reputation, as they were inconsistent with the Laws of War.

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The Sophi b resolved at last to assist his Sonin-Law with a Supply of twelve thousand Men, which he increased afterwards to twenty thoufand, the Command of whom he gave to Morat-Bakchec; a Choice, which it is afferted he made in order to give no Discontent to Soulaki , who standing upon Punctilios, and being jealous of his Rank, had declared, they fay, that he would not serve with any Persian Officer, even of a Rank superior to his own. Morat-Bakche having joined Negeddin, they examined

with

Don Philip. 2 Chambery. b The French King. The Prince of Conti. d M. De la Mina.

with the Generals of the two Nations what were the proper Means to compass the End of the Diversion, and it was resolved to attempt a Paffage through that same Principality, into which the King of Necbal was retired. After having secured the Preservation of Fesova, the combined Army began to march. The Princes, who were both young, brave, and eager after Glory, penetrated in one Campaign into that Principality, and took fome strong Towns, at the Expence, indeed, of a great deal of Blood, but notwithstanding the Difficulties which they met with from the Nature of the Country, which is full of Defiles, very difficult to force, and notwithstanding the Resistance of Korsula, who disputed every Inch of Ground with as much Capacity as Courage. There was some Probability, that the Princes would have penetrated to the very Dominions of the Queen of Golconda, had they not been detained longer than they expected by a Siege ', which proved tedious, and very bloody, and which the Seafon, which was pretty far advanced, and the Snow that fell, obliged them to raise, in order to put their Army, which was very much decreased, and prodigiously fatigued, into Winter Quarters, which it wanted extremely.

Soon after Cha-Baskan's Exaltation on the Throne of Mogul h, News was brought into Asia, of the Revolution which had just happened in Russia k, where the Army had unthroned the Emperor, still a Child, and put in his Stead Selatiheb, a Princess about thirty-

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Bavaria.

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three Years of Age, and who was extremely beloved by the whole Nation. The Hatred which the People entertained against the Ministry, who, in their Opinion, followed a little too much the Principles of the House of Delly m, was the Cause of that Revolution, which was fo well concerted and fo quick, that it was begun and compleated in one fingle Night. Cha-Sephi n had at that Time an Ambassador at the Court of Russia, whose Name was Sydameck o. He was a Persian Lord, about thirtyfix Years old, tall, well shaped, of a lovely Figure, witty, extremely polite, and still more courteous with the Ladies. He was faid to be deeply in Favour with Selatiheb, to whom, indeed, he paid regularly his Court, and who used him with great Distinction. What was very remarkable is, that the Soldiers deputed Fifty of their Number to Sydameck, to acquaint him with what they were doing, to recommend the Empress to him, for whom they knew, faid they, that he had a very great Affection, and to tell him, that they earnestly defired their new Mistress should keep up a good Understanding with the Sophi P, whom they loved and respected. This Event gave so much the greater Uneafiness to the Court of Golconda q, as Selatiheb had caused the Ministers and fome Lords to be arrested, who were entirely in the Interest of the House of Delly, and among whose Papers some Projects and Letters were found, with which the new Empress had no Reason to be pleased. This Revolution

m Austria: n Lewis XV. o M. De la Chetardie.

P The French King. 9 Of the Queen of Hungary.
Austria.

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· lution confounded all Nagar's s Affairs at that Court, and gave room to apprehend a Rupture. Sydameck did artfully improve the Difpositions the Empress was in, and as he gained daily more and more Credit with her, it was not questioned but she would soon declare openly in Favour of Persia t. The Crown of Rusfia, whose Power was but little known twenty Years before, had not been much regarded by the Sovereigns of Asia ": But the Emperor Phadek w, a very able Prince, who had extensive Views, had all of a Sudden roused his Dominions out of that kind of Nothingness they had been in till then, and created, as it were, a new Nation; by which Means he had drawn upon him the Eyes of all the World, and was come at last to have a great Influence in the general Affairs of Asia. Sydameck was the first Person, whom Cha-Sephi sent into that Country with the Title of Ambassador; this Step had been very much liked there; and there was room to think, that if Persia would resolve to keep always at that Court a Minister of the first Rank, she would constantly be very much refpected by the Russians, and have a great Credit with them.

The Year before the *Persians* retired out of the Empire of *Mogul*, the Queen of *Golconda* and her Allies sent several Bodies of Troops into *Feldran*. Their Scheme was to penetrate into *Persia*, and by that Diversion to oblige *Cha-Sephi* to call back his Armies, which could not have been done without exposing them to great Dangers in their Retreat. But the *Sophi* had

^{*} The Queen of Hungary. t France. Europe. W Peter the Great. * Germany. Flanders. * France.

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had luckily taken proper Precautions: Far from laying down his Arms, he had made new Levies, which, as they were raised, had been fent to the Frontiers. Besides a numerous Army which in a few Days might be affembled in the Neighbourhood of the Indus 2, he had another in that Part of Feldran, which belonged to him. Upon the Report that the Allies were in Motion on that Side, it was refolved to make that Army act. The Command of it was defigned for Seif b, who was so ill advised as to refuse it, being vexed, perhaps, at his not obtaining the fame Dignity with which Nessir c was rewarded, when he went upon his Expedition into Jenupar d. Upon Seif's Refusal, the Command was given to Ibbi . All the Princes and Grandees thought it their Duty to go to that Army. They fet out late; and though they expected every Day to hear of fome great Action, yet nothing was done, because the Allies entered upon no Enterprise. The Sophi shewed a great deal of Moderation on that Occasion: He saw the Enemy at his Door, he was not ignorant of their Projects. and yet he only put himself in a Posture of Defence, and took no Advantage of the Conduct of the Allies, which was so much the more uncautious, as no War had been yet declared. Ibbi applied himself to Marches, Encampments, and to his usual Precautions; he visited the fortified Towns, put them in a State of Defence, and took a particular Care of the Fortifications of a Sea-port Town f, which was of the utmost Importance, and which Cha-

^a The Rhine. ^b M. De Cogni. ^c Marshal De Broglio. d Bohemia. e M. De Noailles. f Dunkirk.

Sephi would fecure against all Attempts. This was young Sevagi's g first Campaign: He distinguished himself there, not so much by the great Sumptuousness of his Equipages, as by his Application to improve himself, his Watchfulness, his indefatigable Zeal, and above all, by his Affability, and by his Generosity. He deserved the Commendations of the Officers, and won the Hearts of the Soldiers. This young Prince was at that Time seventeen Years old; he was handsome, tall for his Age, and very well shaped. He had Wit in his Countenance, a noble Air, and a great Sweetness of Temper.

A constrained and perplexed Air he had with Persons of his Rank, or with Strangers, and a kind of Bashfulness made him sometimes seem to be out of his proper Place. But he overcame those Defects, at least in Part, during this Campaign, and acquired a more free and easy Carriage. He had a great deal of Wit, a noble Ambition, and an uncommon Goodness of Heart. In a word, he was a most lovely and hopeful Prince. Zelida h was extremely uneasy when he set out, because he was of a very weak Constitution: But two Months stay in the Army strengthen'd him very much, and he returned Home entirely changed for the better.

A little before this Campaign, died at Ispaban, in the thirty-third Year of her Age, Selatiheb, the Widow of Semein I. late Emperor of China, in whose Behalf his Father had abdicated eighteen Years before, and who did not reign an whole Year. This Princess was

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Ponthievre. b The Count of Toulouse and Duke of Ponthievre. b The Countess of Toulouse. Paris. Lewis I. King of Spain.

the Daughter of Mi-Homajou^m, and one of the two, whose Marriage, we said in the Beginning of these Memoirs, was one of the Conditions of the Treaty of Peace between Persia and Chinaⁿ. Since her Return to Ispahan she led a re-

tired and pretty melancholly Life.

Towards the End of this same Year, Retima o loft the Title of Favourite, and was difgraced. Her Good-nature proved the Cause of her Misfortune. She had three Sifters, one of whom she introduced at Court: Her Name was Osiria P, and she had been a few Years a Widow, her Husband, who was a Persian Lord, being carried off by a pestilential Fever, at the Age of twenty-four or twenty-five. She was pretty, very fair, and though fince the had been a Widow, she made no great Noise in the World, yet it was not without Pleasure and Ambition that she saw herself at Court. admitted by Retima's Care into Cha-Sephi's Parties of Pleafure, she was not without Hopes of moving his Heart, and supplanting her Sister: Azamut, one of the four Mehters, was faid to have had a great Share in that Intrigue. He was a tall Man, well shaped, of an agreeable Air, extremely courteous, and had still a great Relish for such Pleasure, the excessive Use of which had broke his Constitution, and made him grow old before his Time. He had been a great Lover of Women, by whom he was thought to have been kindly received. amorous Intrigues had made a great Noise in the World, and brought him into some Trou-

m The Duke of Orleans, the late Regent. n France and Spain. Madem. De Mailli. P The Dutchefs De Chateauroux.

ble, out of which he extricated himself very well. He had a great Deal of Wit, was gay, amusing, very rich, but too extravagant. He was in a high Rank at Court, and much in Favour with Cha-Sephia. He was ambitious, and after the Death of Ismael-Beg, he was charged with aspiring to the Place of Athemadoulet; a Place, for which, notwitstanding his great Qualities, he was not very proper, on Account of his Inclination for Pleasure, his Carelessness, and his unsecond Mind.

and his unfettled Mind.

Cha-Sephi could not withstand Ofiria's Charms. But this covetous Woman, who would make the best Advantage she could of the Superiorty her Beauty gave her over Retima, caused her Conquest to be bought: She would not accept the Rank of a Favourite, but with fuch Titles and Distinctions, of which there had been but one Instance under the Reign of the Great Cha-Abast, and she did not surrender till she was sure of being put into fuch a Condition, as might secure her against all Events. Cha-Sephi was too deeply in Love not to grant every thing, and this Woman's Credit became fo great, that it was feared she would at last govern him absolutely. It was for her that little and charming Apartment was made in the Country-feat, which, as we have observ'd above, the Saphi bought two Years after Sevagi's " Death; it was for her that those easy Carriages were invented, to remove her from one Place to another in those Times and Circumstances, which

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^q Lewis XV. ^r Cardinal De Fleuri. ^s Prime-Minister. ^t Lewis XIV. ^u The Count of Toulouse.

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It was with an unexpressible Grief that Retima heard of her Misfortune: As she had loved fincerely, and for no other Interest but that of the Heart, she was a long time disconsolate. But a certain Iman *, a Man of a great deal of Wit and Zeal, made her reflect upon herself: The frequent Conversations she had with him, restored the Peace of her Mind, and made her know her Duty: So that this fame Woman, formerly fumptuously dressed, who minded nothing but Pleasure, was now seen to frequent the Mosques r constantly, dressed very plain, mixed with other Women, from whom the was not distinguished but by her Devotion and Humility. She was more efteemed and more admired in that State of Humiliation, than she had ever been in the greatest Splendor of her Cha-Sephi settled about Favour at Court. nine hundred Tomans (a) a Year upon her, gave her a Palace, ordered her Debts to be paid, which amounted to Seventeen thousand Tomans (b); a Sum, which, though pretty large, will appear moderate, if it be confidered that she made no Advantage of the Rank to which she had been raised, and that she did not receive above five hundred Tomans (c) a Year, which was by no means answerable to the Expence

(a) About 1800 l. Sterling, or 40,000 Livres French Money.

^{*} Namely, when she was with Child. * A Clergyman. Y Churches.

⁽b) 34,000 l. Sterling, or 765,000 French Livres.
(c) About 1000 l. Sterling, or 22 500 French Livres.

These three last Notes are in the Original.

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pence she was obliged to make at Court. The Revenues of the Custom-house were assigned for the Payment of these seventy thousand Tomans: But, notwithstanding the Sophi's Orders, they who were charged with the Management of these Funds, not being satisfied with making the Creditors wait a long time, made the greatest Part of them lose considerable

Of Retima's two other Sister, the one named Euxica, had been some Years married to Zengis c, a Persian Lord, who, though not of the first Rank, was pretty much confider'd at Court. Euxica was tall and well shaped, had one of those Physiognomies that are pleasing, and behaved after such a Manner, as gave no handle to Slanderers. The other Sifter's Name was Doghdon; she was the youngest, was tall, clumfy and ill-shaped: She was neither handsome nor ugly; at least Twenty-seven Years old, and married the next Year with Mir-Tehekar, who had been some Years a Widower, was still young, very rich, and a Man of Distinction; but who had neither a very good, nor very bad Reputation.

Towards the End of this Year died in his Capital City Ast-Kan, Raja of Brampour d, at the Age of Fourscore, without having any Children. The Dignity of Raja, together with his Dominions, descended by Right of Succession to Ali-Couli-Kan e, a Prince of the same Family, but of a different Branch, aged a little above Eighteen. He entered upon the Possession of

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d The Elector Palatine.

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c Mr. De la Tournelle. * The Prince of Sultzbach.

his Dominions in a very critical Juncture, and at an Age when Men are not always governed by Prudence. He acted nevertheless very wisely, and would take no Share in the Broils which disturbed the Empire of Mogul s, but so far as

was necessary to restore its Tranquillity.

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The War was still continued vigorously by Sea between China 8 and Japan. The two Nations took frequently Ships from each other, and by the Accounts that were published it appeared, that the Japanese, tho' much superior by Sea, loft more Vessels than the Chinese. It is true indeed, that if China had kept the Sea with a Fleet, and ventured a Fight, she would in all Probability have been beat. But she only sent out feveral small Squadrons, which cruizing here and there, molested the Japanese much more, than if they had been united. This War cost the two Nations immense Sums, especially the Japanese, whose Coasts not being defended by Forts, could not be protected but by a vaft Number of Ships; which being added to the Supplies with which they furnished the Queen of Golconda, put them to a most prodigious Expence. But as they were immensely rich, and had in their Industry, their Trade, and the Constitution of their State infinite Resources; whatfoever Expences they were at, or what Losses foever they suffered, they were much less in Proportion than those of China, which had not the fame Advantages. Among other Undertakings, the Japanese attempted to make themselves Masters of a Sea-Port Town of China, in which

which very great Riches were lodged for Security's Sake: They had made prodigious Preparations for that Expedition, but it did not prove successful; they were obliged to retire with Loss; and Sickness, together with bad Weather, compleated the Destruction of the Crew of their Vessels. But their very Losses encouraged them to make greater Efforts still; and the World saw with Astonishment new Fleets sail out of the Ports of Japan, more numerous, and more formidable, than those of the preceding Years: So great is the Power of that Empire! So wonderful the Courage of that Nation!

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In the mean time, Ismael-Beg's h Health was daily declining; his old Age, an habitual Diftemper, which Age rendered more dangerous still. fore-boded an approaching Death. He fell very often into a very bad Condition; his Physicians having warned him by no Means to apply himself to Business, he meddled as little as he could with publick Affairs, and passed the greatest Part of his Time at a Country Seat four Miles distant from Ispahan i. The Ministers went thither daily to give him an Account, and receive his Orders. Ibben k, who, as we have observed, succeeded Ofman in the Direction of War Affairs, being come thither one Morning, worked some Hours with Ismael-Beg; and whither he was indisposed before, or through an excessive Application, he was fo ill when he came out, that his Life was despaired of. The Iman Hasai, a Man

b Cardinal De Fleury. Breteuil, Minister of War.

¹ Paris. ^k Mr. De. ¹ Mr. d'Angervilliers.

Man whom Ismael-Beg reposed his Trust in. and who owed his Fortune to him, fearing perhaps, lest this Accident should make too deep an Impression upon the Athemadoulet m, who was in too bad a State of Health not to fear for him, gave not the least Assistance to Ibben, and caused him to be carried with all speed to Ispahan, where he arrived, already dead according to some, or, as others fay, in fuch a desperate Condition, that he died the next Day. His Death made a great Noise. and Haldy was publickly enough charged with it, and accused of Inhumanity. His Conduct feemed the more odious, as it was afferted that if Ibben had had timely Affistance, his Life would have been faved.

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There were many Candidates for his Place: Neamed , the Son of Daracha, whom we have mentioned under the Administration of Ali-Homajou o, carried it. He was tall, well shaped, had beautiful Features, an agreeable Look, though fomewhat inclining to Sadness, a noble Gate, a sprightly Wit, but no great Judgment, a superficial Knowledge of many things; and as he spoke readily and well, he deceived Men at first. He had been for a long time intimate with Prince Jesseing P. His Ambition had no Bounds: He was faid to have fo ftrongly follicited for Ibben's Place, which he was not thought capable to fill up, with no other View but to have a Foot in the Ministry, and to be nearer at hand to obtain the Employment of Divan-Beghi q. This new Mini-

of Orleans the late Regent. P The Duke of Orleans's Son. 9 Of Chancellor.

ster behaved himself with so much Artisice, that he came to have a great Credit with Gha-

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Sephi .

Ismael-Beg died a few Months after: He fuffered a great while, and with a great Constancy. He kept his Knowledge almost to the last Gasp. The Sophi' visited him twice during his Illness, and they were a long while thut up together. It is afferted, that in these Conferences, Ismael-Beg, as he was giving his Master an Account of the State of the Kingdom, and of what he thought proper to be done in the Circumstances Asia was in, endeavoured to alienate him from Muzain a, a Moullah of a great deal of Wit, who he was afraid should be appointed his Successor, though he had always feemed to live in a good Understanding with him, and had given him, they fay, more than bare Hopes of having a great Share in the Administration. Ismael-Beg died to the great Satisfaction of many, but lamented by the Sophi, who erected a stately Tomb to him, which will be a constant Memorial of his good Heart and Gratitude.

This Athemadoulet had for above fixteen Years, absolutely governed Cha-Sephi w and the whole State. The small Estate he left, was a Proof of his being void of Self-interest: But he had taken Care to provide plentifully for his Relations; a Method of establishing the Fortune of one's Friends upon a solid Foundation, which is the more artful, as it is more noble, more pompous, more agreeable to Self-love, and not liable to those Suspicions, from which a rich Inheritance

Lewis XV. The French King. Europe. Cardinal De Tencin. Lew. XV.

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of a Minister does generally create. His Ambition having prompted him to procure a Place of Mehter *, to one of his Nephews; he had the Vexation to see that the other Mehters were but little inclined to admit amongst them a Man, whom they judged unworthy of a Post, to which they said a noble Birth alone could give a Man a Right to pretend. Cha-Sephi forced them to submit; but all his Authority could not prevent them from seizing with Eagerness every Opportunity they could, to give their new Brother all the Disgust and Vexation that lay in their Power.

Ismael-Beg, as a private Man, had many excellent Qualities; as he had a bright and delicate Wit, his Conversation was easy and amufing; his Repartees were quick and sprightly: He was humane, honest, very regular in his Manners, a good Relation, and a kind Master: But he was artful, dissembling, revengeful, and no substantial Friend.

As a Statesman, he was too easily prepossessed, too little upon his Guard against Informers, ridiculously fond of the Ambition of being esteemed a great Minister, even by Foreigners; too saving, too jealous of his Power, too little acquainted with the Nature of true Glory, to be able to support his Master's in a proper time. He had but indifferent Talents for the Government of a large Kingdom, because he wanted that extensive and strong Genius, which seizes and embraces in a Moment all the Objects, apprehends their strong and weak Sides, perceives their Advantages and Inconveniencies, and always makes the best of them

The Dignity of a Duke and Peer.

for the Good of the State. By pretending to be a great Lover of Peace, he had imposed upon feveral Powers, whilft he was all the time intriguing in many Courts and laboured underhand to disturb the Tranquillity of Asiar by Wars, in which he did not defign to engage himself, whatever Hopes he might give to take a Share in them. He cast a Blemish on the Sophi's Reputation, by breaking a Treaty, which he had made him imprudently fign fome Years before, with the House of Delly 2, to the Prejudice of other Treaties anterior to that, and made with other Princes; and he difgraced the Persian Name by the Weakness of the Forces he employed to make good the Infringement of that Treaty. When he entered into the Administration, he found the Government in the utmost Disorder, and retrieved it in a little Time; an Epoch very glorious to his Memory: But he wanted Capacity to improve the Opportunities, that offered to enlarge the Power of Persia, or to foresee such as might offer afterwards. In a word, the great Events which happened during his Administration, opened him a fine and large Carrier of of Glory, which, to the Shame and Prejudice of the Nation, he was not capable to run.

Immediately after the Death of Ismael-Beg, Cha-Sephi a declared that he would govern by himself: And accordingly, he applied himself intirely to the Care of the State, and fixed the Hours for his Ministers to work with him. This Resolution was very much and justly applauded: But People could not believe that he

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Sanction, which the French King signed, and infringed soon after. 2 Lewis XV.

he would perfift in it. The little Tafte he was known to have for Bufiness, and the Ignorance in which he was always kept of State Affairs, made it be judged, that he would foon chuse a Person, on whom he should disburthen himself of a Load which was thought too heavy for him. Upon this Foundation great Intrigues were carrying on at Court; every one of those who imagined, they might pretend to that Place of Trust (and their Number was not small, for no Man thinks himself inferior to another with regard to Genius and Capacity) every one, I fay, began to fet his Engines to work. Even Cofrou b flattered himfelf, that he might be restored to the Post he had once filled. In order to fucceed, he drew up a long Memorial, in which he blamed, without any Discretion, the late Athemadouletc; he found means to transmit that Memorial into the Hands of the Sophia, who was feized with Indignation against the Author, and would have made him feel the whole Weight of it, if they had not pacified him. It must be confessed, that Cosrou took a very bad time, and was guilty of the utmost Imprudence, by pretending to cenfure a Man, who was scarce cold, and whose Memory was extremely dear to Cha-Sephie. He was ill advised, and worse served. His Precipitation spoiled all; and suppose there had been some Hope for him, he loft it by the manner in which the Sophi expressed himself upon his Account. This bad Success, far from disheartening the Pretenders, encouraged them, on the contrary, fo much the more, as they had dreaded Cof-

b Chauvelin. c Prime Minister. d The Frenci

Cofron and his Party. But the Sophi did not shew a liking for any Person, exclusive of the rest, except perhaps for Rhedif, whose Credit increased considerably by the Care he took to furnish the necessary Funds for the Expences the Sophi made in beautifying his Country Seat. One Day amongst others, Rhedi paid his Court most dexterously. Cha-Sephi having spent some Hours with him at that same Seat, in treating of Business, suffered him to go away, without mentioning to him an Estimate of some Additions that were to be made to that Seat, the Expence of which was to amount to about twenty-seven thousand Tomans 8. His natural Bashfulness, and the immense Sums he was obliged to fpend in the present Situation of Affairs, did not fuffer him to deliver it himfelf into Rhedi's Hands, whose Remonstrances he probably dreaded. But as foon as he was gone, he gave that Estimate to one of his Eunuchsh, commanding him to deliver it immediately to Rhedi, and to tell him that the Sophi forgot to give it him. Rhedi read it that very Moment, and feeing what was the Matter, he returned immediately into Cha-Sephi's Appartment, and told him he was furprized at the smallness of the Sum, that he had reckon'd upon a much larger Sum, and had taken proper Measures to furnish thirty-five thousand Tomans 1. The Sophi was inchanted with the Zeal and Complaifance of his Minister, and took it so much the more kindly, as he did not

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Mr. Orri, Comptroller General of the Finances.

54,000 Pounds Sterling, or about 1,215,000 French Livres.

h Attendants.

170,000 Pounds Sterling, or about 1,575,000 French Livre.

expect it. This Trifle ingratiated Rhedi very much with his Master: So true it is, that with great Men, every thing depends from a critical Minute! Cosrou misses it and compleats his Ruin; Rhedi seizes it, and encreases his Favour.

Whilst these things were transacting in Perfiak, they lamented in the Empire of Mogul 1, the Death of Nabal-Abel-Kan, Raja of Guzarate m, who died in his Capital City, at the Age of three-score and eighteen Years. It was a Loss, considering the Circumstances the Empire was in. The Grandees of Guzarate elected in his Stead Mir-Kassem-Kan. As his own Interest required that he should keep Neuter, amongst the Disputes that divided the Empire, he shewed at his Accession to his Dignity, no Inclination for one Party preferably to the other. Some time after he seemed to favour the Queen of Golconda " a little, at which the Emperor was very much displeased. As the Power of this Raja is less considerable by his Armies, than by the Authority his Dignity gives him, his Alliance is not of great Weight in time of War.

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Some Months after died at Ispahan o Princess Roxana, Mother to Mirza-Haddi, at the Age of three-score and ten. She died extremely rich, but by her Death she left the Party of

Cofrou q in a manner without a Head.

As the Neutrality, to which the King of Cochinchina had engaged himself, was only the Effect of the Fear he was under lest the Japonese should make a Descent into his Dominions, it did not hinder him from sending to I 2 Segedin

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Segedin s fome Regiments, which were faid to be the same Gelaleddin thad formerly sent for the Conquest of Cochinchina, and which having always been in that Emperor's Pay, were obliged to march at his Command. In vain did the Court of Japan complain of that Step, as being an Infraction of the Neutrality, no other Satisfaction could be obtained: That Court was obliged to be content, at least, in Appearance, the rather, as some Time after, Olabi " withdrew the Artillery and Ammunition, which he he had fent the Year befor for the Service of the Chinese w: But this Prince continued inactive fo long a time only as was necessary to secure his Coast against all Attempts, and to put his Sea-ports in fo good a State of Defence, as to have nothing to fear from the Japonese. These Precautions being taken, he raised a powerful Army, and marched in Person to the Assistance of Segedin. Prince Negeddin's * Success in the Dominions of Korfula, the Defire of contributing to the Settlement of a Brother, a most natural Sentiment! the repeated Sollicitations of the Courts of China and Persia'z, and a strong Aversion to the House of Delly a, all this, I say, determined the King of Cochinchina b to break his Neutrality. The Junction of the Cochinchinese did not produce all the Effects that were expected from it. The Dellians were still the strongest, and all that could be done was to keep on the defensive till towards the End of the following Year, when the Dellian General retired to post himself after such a manner, as to

^{*} M. De Gages. the King of Spain. u Don Carlos, King of Naples and Sicily. w Spaniards. * Don Philip. Y The King of Sardinia. 2 Spain and France. 2 Austria. Naples.

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be at hand to support the King of Necbal^c, and to cover the Principality of Bengale^d, which it was feared might be soon invaded, considering the Progress the Chinese and Persians had made. And it would probably have been invaded, had not the Severity of the Weather, as we have already observed, obliged them to raise the Siege of a strong Town ^c, situated almost in the Heart of the Dominions of Korsula^f.

Cha-Baskan 8 had however some Thoughts of a Peace, and caused now and then Propositions to be made to the Queen of Golconda h: which the constantly rejected, being determined not to hearken to a particular Peace: A Conduct, which made her Enemies fay, that she wanted to prolong the War for ever: But this Conduct of hers was so much the more just towards her Allies, as, without their Affistance, she would not have been able to defend herfelf. The Necessity and Efficacy of that Assistance afforded a large Field to the Friends of Nagar', who inferred from thence, that the Dominions of the House of Delly k, even kept undivided, were weaker than the Powers confederated against her. A Consequence which was false with regard to Men, fince the numerous Armies raised by the Queen of Golconda, proved that her Dominions swarmed with Soldiers; but a true Consequence as to the Want of Money, which put it really out of her Power to employ them without a Supply of Money.

The States and Princes of the Empire were divided, fome favouring the Emperor of Mo-I 4 gul

re Sard'nia. d The Milanese. e Coni. f The present King of Sardinia. g The late Electr of Bavaria, and Emperor. h The Queen of Hungary.

The same. k Austria.

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gul¹, and others the Queen of Golconda, according as their Inclination or their Interest led them. Thus that Body, so powerful and formidable, was working its Ruin, by tearing its own Entrails, and was forging the Chains, with which, its Blindness did not suffer it to foresee, that the conquering Party would one

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It was not the Empire of Mogul alone that Discord had infected with her poisonous Breath: The Empire of Russia, and the Kingdom of Falekeldar m had had their Share of it: They carried on a cruel War against each other, to which Ismael-Beg " was faid to have excited the Jalekeldarians, with a Design, no Doubt, to keep Russia employed, and to deprive the Queen of Golconda of the Affistance she might have expected from it, by the Intercession of the Emperer of Japan, who had a great Credit at that Court. That War proved from the Beginning to the End disadvantageous to the Falekeldarians, and might have been fatal to them, if the Empress of Russia had not been fo generous as to listen to the Proposals of Peace that were made her, and to which she was favourably disposed by the Offer that was made her to raise one of her near Relations to the Throne of Jalekelder, which was elective. Two Generals paid with their Heads (a Punishment attended with Infamy in Jalekeldar) for the ill Success of that War. The utmost Endeavours were used to save their Lives, especially of one of them, named Negef-Couli-Beg o,

¹ The late Emperor Charles VII. of the House of Bavaria.

^m Sweden.

ⁿ Cardinal De Fleuri.

^o General Leuwenhaupt.

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who proved, that he had not yet joined, nor could join the Jalekeldarian Army, when it was routed by the Russians. Nothing was capable to conquer the Animosity of the greatest Number of the Members of the State, who had that Misfortune at Heart. The two Generals were executed. The unfortunate Negef-Couli-Beg, the Day before his Execution attempted to make his Escape: He succeeded, at least, in part; but unlucky Accidents, which it is not in the Power of human Prudence to foresee, having prevented him from going far enough not to be re-taken, he was known, and brought back into the Capital City, where he was beheaded the next Day. The Nation's Hatred expired with him, and that great Man was generally lamented. A fad and remarkable Instance of the Ingratitude and Inconstancy of the Multitude.

Towards the Beginning of this Year, some Japonese Men of War, and a Fire-ship appeared before a neutral Port, into which was retired a Chinese P Man of War of seventy Guns, commanded by Haffein, a Persian 9 Officer of an uncommon Intrepidity. Two Japonese Ships, leaving the rest behind, entered into the Harbour and summoned Hassein to surrender: That brave Officer answered only by a Difcharge of his Artiflery: But feeing that notwithstanding this, the Japonese persisted in their Defign, and that the Commandant of the Fort took no Measures to defend him, he landed his Crew, put fire to his Ship and blew The Sick perished with it, a sad Accident indeed, but forced by Necessity, the little Time: I 5

P Spanish. 9 French.

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them on Shore.

In the mean time, the Queen of Golconda had a numerous Army on the Indust, commanded by Prince Salcher's, who threatned to pass that River, and to return to the Persians Invasion for Invasion, by carrying the War into, their own Dominions. There was fo much the more Reason to fear that this Project would fucceed, as Nagar t and her Allies had got together higher up a large Army in the Neighbourhood of Amadabat ", which, it was thought, designed to join Prince Salcher. In order to disappoint these Projects, Cha-Sephi put Ibbi w, at the Head of fifty-five thousand Men, defigned to prevent that Junction, and he gave near as many to Seif x, with Orders to defend the Passage of the Indus, and to cover the Proyinces that lie near it.

Ibbi passed the Indus, and advanced towards the River Emni, with a Design to seize upon an advantageous Post: But being prevented by Haider, a most active Japonese General, he posted himself on the Banks of the River Emni, over which he threw two Bridges in order to keep the Passage free, and to be in a Condition to take an Advantage of the Motions of the consederate Army, which was encamped on the other Side of the River. The Emperor of Japan had just put himself at the Head of that Army, where one of his Sons, named Mir-Kassem, was arrived before him. The Bodies

gary. "Francfort. "Noailles. Cogni."

The Rhine. Charles. The Queen of Hungary. "Francfort. "Noailles. Cogni."

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of the feveral Nations, which composed that Army, were commanded by brave and experienced Generals of their respective Nations: Haider commanded the Japonese, and those Troops that were in their Pay. The Dellians were commanded by Jaber and Mamat. Both Armies observed each other for some Days. At last the Allies made a Motion on their Right, by marching up the River, in order, as some say, to draw near a Reinforcement of twenty thousand Ceylanese 2, who were advancing; or according to others, to be at Hand for getting Provisions and Forage, of which they were absolutely in Want. Thereupon Ilbi, who had Intelligence of their Motion, caused immediately thirty-thousand Men to pass the River; the Foot over two Bridges, and the Horse by Fording, with a Design to fall on the Rear of the Enemy, and to defeat Haider, observing Ibbi's Proceeding, and concluding from thence that the whole Persian Army was passing the River, drew up immediately the Japonese in Order of Battle; for these made up the Rear, whilst Orders were sent to the Van-guard to come back with all Speed. The Persians having marched through a Defile, which hindered them from perceiving the Dispofitions made by the Enemy, were furprifed when they arrived in the Plain, to find them in Order But as they were too far advanced of Battle. to draw back again, and reckoned to have to do only with the Rear, they marched boldly up to the Japonese, to whose Fire, which was dreadful, they were exposed. The Persians, whose Ranks were considerably thinned, were put

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put into some Confusion, and lost Ground: Their Leaders rallied them, made them make a fecond Attack, which did not prove more fuccessful than the former, and finally a third, which did not fucceed better, the Dellians being now come up. Mirgi-Mola 2, Son to Prince Tesseing, Miram b, younger Brother to Mirza-Haddi, the two Sons of Soliman and Sevagi, performed Wonders: Some Regiments of Foot fought very bravely, but were ill-seconded by a Corps of Infantry, confiderable by its Number, and distinguished by the Rank it has in the Persian Militia. This Corps having given Ground at the third Charge, communicated its Fright to the greatest Part of the Infantry, which run away, and left the Cavalry, which was obliged to maintain a running Fight, under a very great Disadvantage. This Cavalry confisted of the choice Troops of Cha-Sephi's Army, behaved very well, and fuffered exceedingly. The Japonese themselves owned, that the Courage with which that Body attacked them, furprifed them, and that they had been loft, if it had sustained the third Discharge with the same Intrepidity; or if the Infantry had not forsaken it; or finally, if the Dellians were not arrived very opportunely. They, who run to fave themselves, imagining they had the Enemy at their Heels, threw themselves into the River, where many of them were drowned. In this Action, which continued four Hours and an half, the Persians lost a great Number of Men, and in particular many brave Officers, who feeing their Regiments turn their Back to the Enemy, put themselves in

^{*} The Duke of Chartres. * The Count of Clermont.

in a Line, and chose rather to die honourably, by standing their Ground, than to run away

shamefully.

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The Allies, who fuffered very much from the Artillery of the Persians, and imagined that their whole Army had passed the River, did not think proper to purfue them; they apprehended, very likely, that the Ambition of gaining a greater Advantage, might make them lofe that, which they had already gained. contented themselves with remaining on the Field of Battle till the next Day in the Afternoon, when they decamped, and, what is very fingular, they abandoned their Wounded. and some Cannon. It was however faid, that if they had taken an Advantage of the Confufion the Persians were in, and had attempted to pass the River, they might have gained a compleat Victory; fo much was the Persian Army frightened.

Mir-Kassem, Son to the Emperor of Japan, having, though wounded, observed on the Field of Battle, a Persian Officer all covered with Wounds, and whose Bravery he had taken Notice of during the Battle, ordered him to be carried into his own Tent, and would have his Wounds dressed before his own. An Action so much the more Praise-worthy, as that young Prince neglected his own Person to bestow all his Cares on an Enemy, who was very much beneath him, but whose great Courage had

made respectable to him.

Some Days after the Retreat of the Allies, Ibbi a decamped, croffed the Indus b again, and shut himself up within formidable Lines, which

² Marshal De Noailles.

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he left afterwards, in order to draw nearer to Seif; who wanted to be supported, and to cover at the same Time those Provinces, upon which Salcher was known to have a Defign. This Prince had opened the Campaign with Success: One of Cha-Baskan's Generals routed another, uncapable to keep the Field, Vifapouran fubdued, a Suspension of Arms lately agreed upon between the Emperor and the Queen of Golconda 8, the Neutrality which the Troops of the Emperor had just engaged upon; a famous Persian Captain taken Prisoner with his whole Troop; Nessir h driven from Post to Post; all the Towns, which the Perfians i had feized upon, taken again; the Necessity to which the Sophi k had been reduced of withdrawing all his Troops out of the Empire of Mogul 1: These were as many Trophies for Salcher. In Confequence of these Advantages, he was marched towards the Indus m. and made fuch Dispositions as shewed that he defigned to pass it. Seif, being intrenched on the opposite Bank of that River, the Passage of which was defended by feveral Bodies of Troops posted at some Distance from each other, obferved the Enemy's Motions, who gave him frequent Alarms. At last Salcher resolved one Night to attempt a Passage by two different Places at once. He had caused a Bridge to be built, which reached to an Island formed by Nature in the middle of the Indus: He passed over

^{*} Marshal De Coigni.

* The late Emperor Charles VII. Elector of Bavaria.

* Bivaria.

* Hungary.

Broglio.

* The Rhine.

* Marshal De

* The French King.

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over that Bridge, and notwithstanding the continual Fire of the Persians posted in the Island, he feated himself in it with about twelve thoufand Men. In the mean time Kaluced, one of his Generals, at the Head of three thousand choice Men, whom he put into Boats, made another Attempt over against a Post defended by Kasamir, a brave and experienced General-Offiger, who forced him to retire with Loss. Kaluced fignalized himself on that Occasion, and would perhaps have fucceeded, had any other but Kasamir defended that Post. This Attempt having miscarried, Salcher had no other View but to keep the Island, to drive the Persians out of it, and to compleat the Passage. Seif was not strong enough to oppose an Enemy much superior to him, and besides this, his Troops were extremely fatigued: This determined the Sophi to make Ibbi march to support him. The Allies followed that General, and by the Way levelled with the Ground the Lines he had abandoned; after which, the Season being pretty much advanced, they croffed the Indus again, and feparated. On the other Hand, Salcher finding it impossible to execute his Project, fince the Arrival of Ibbi, and fearing the overflowing of the River, retired, and put his Army into Winter-Quarters. Some Weeks after Kasamir, taking an Advantage of the Dellian's Retreat, passed the Indus o with a confiderable Body, raifed again the Works in an Island different from that we have been speaking of, and provided it with Soldiers and Ammunition: This Expedition was

" Prine: Waldeck.

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thought necessary for Reasons of War.

Not long before this, a Golcondian General P, whom Fortune and his favage Valour had raifed from an obscure Condition, to high Degrees in the Army, penetrated at the Head of a desperate Troop and eager after Plunder, into the Principality of Tatta q, that same Province, which was yielded in full Sovereighty to Persia, by the Treaty of Gehanabad : He committed there all Sorts of Outrages, and dispersed a Writing defigned to encourage the People to a Rebellion, and to put themselves again under the Government of their Ancient Masters. Large Contributions which he required, and a confiderable Booty, where all the Advantages he gained by that Invasion, for which he might have paid dear, had he not made Haste to retire, upon the Notice he received that a large Body of Persians was coming, in order to fall upon him.

Whilst these Things were transacting in Asia, Russia was very near suffering a new Revolution; the Scheme of which was to unthrone the Empress, and call back the young Emperor. Some of the Conspirators were arrested, amongst whom were several Ladies of the Court; eight of them being sentenced to Death, the Empress gave them their Lives, but they had their Tongues cut off and were banished. The Queen of Golconda's a Minister at that Court, was positively charged by the Empress, with being concerned in that Conspiracy, and with promising Assistance to the discontented. She demanded Satisfaction

P Colonel Mentzel.

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tisfaction from Nagar v, whose Interest it was to have a great Regard for the Empress; so that the made Haste to give her the Satisfaction she defired; for the Minister cleared himself. But what Impressions do not such Accusations leave behind them, especially after the Discovery Selatiheb x had made, foon after her Accession to the Throne, of the suspicious Correspondence between her Ministers, and those of Golconda: It feems there was a kind of Spell upon that Empress, which exposed her to dangerous Intrigues: For the next Year Sydameck, whom Cha-Sephi z, with a Design to break the Measures of the Queen of Golconda and her Allies, had lately fent back into Russia, with the Title of Embaffador, which he had there two Years before, was charged with Defigns much of the fame Kind, and commanded by the Empress to leave the Capital City within four and twenty Hours, and the whole Kingdom in eight Days. His Papers were feized, in which was found, they fay, a Project of an approaching Revolu-There was however this Difference, that Selatiheb a did not require from the Sophi b, any Satisfaction for Sydameck's Conduct: A Difference, which gave room to question the Truth of the Accusation, and rather to suspect that Lord of a Behaviour more injurious to Selatibeb's Person, than to her Crown, and so much the more outragious, as she had loaded him with Favours, and used him with an uncommon Distinction. Perhaps also, some jealous Perfons, to whom he gave but too much handle, by his

w The Queen of Hungary.

y Mr. De la Chetardie.

The Czarina.

King Lewis XV.

The Czarina.

his excessive Inclination for the fair Sex, and by his Want of Circumspection in his amorous Intrigues, found Means to asperse his Reputation, and thus to exasperate that Princess against him: However that be, his Crime must have been very great, since he was obliged to return whatever he had received from the Empress's Generosity, and even those Marks of Honour, which she had bestowed upon him at the Time of his former Embassy. He was succeeded by a Man, who had made a long Stay in Russia, and understood the Language of the Country, but who wanted, they say, the Qualifications requisite in a Minister of the first Rank.

Zelim c, who had been for some Years Embaffador from Persia at the Court of the King of Corea d, was lately returned Home. Sophi o fent him to the Emperor Cha-Baskan, to execute an important Commission, which was a Pretence to carry on fecret Negociations with some Princes of the Empire of Mogul 1, and to give them such Hints as related to the present Situation of Affairs. Zelim was a great Politician, and perhaps the ablest Negociator in all Afia h. He had, even with Fcreigners, a great Reputation, which he justly deserved. He was of an eafy Conversation, a folid Friend, prudent, of a fingular Penetration, free from Ambition, and from that haughty and affuming Air, which would become true Merit alone, but which true Merit never takes. He had a pleasing Countenance, an agreeable and sweet Air, a cold Access, was tall, and a little roundshoulder'd:

French Ki g.

f The late Emperor Charles VII.

Elector of Bavaria,

g Germany.

h Europe.

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shoulder'd: This was not the only Journey he took to Amadabat i: As he was in a manner the last Resource of Persia, he was sent thither again the next Year.

Prince Mirgi-Mola k, at his Return from the Army on the Indus to Ispahan a, married Fulvia, Sister to Morat-Bakche, a Princess about eighteen Years old, beautiful, well-shaped, of a charming Character, and a sprightly and delicate Wit. The Prince her Spoule was almost of the same Age, handsome enough, but prodigiously clumfy; of a Temper sometimes troublesome, and of such a Genius as People did not care to speak of. For the rest, he was good-natured and humane, though upon the whole but little generous. When still but a Child he had given the greatest Hopes, which he would probably have answered, if the second Person who was charged with the Care of this Prince's Education, had followed the Steps of the first, who was intrusted with it. So true it is, that with regard to Education, the Change of Masters generally turns to the Difadvantage of the Pupil.

During the Winter, Persia o made very great Preparations, both by Land and by Sea, for the ensuing Campaign, which she opened very soon, at least, by Sea. The second Month in the Year her Ships sailed out of one of her Harbours, into which some Chinese P Vessels had taken Sanctuary the Year before, and where they had been in a Manner blocaded ever since by a Japonese Fleet. The Chinese being determined

Francfort.

* The Duke of Chartres.

The Prince of Conti.

Paris.

The Prince of Conti.

P Spanish.

determined to fight the Japonese, though much fuperior to them, if they appeared, fet fail in Company with the Persians. The Japonese Admiral appeared at Noon in Order of Battle, and attacked the Chinese, who had the Vanguard of the combined Fleet. The Chinese fought with the greatest Courage, and suffered very much, having been alone exposed, during three Hours, to the Fire of the Japonese. Their Admiral especially fignalized himself; his Ship was extremely shattered, but he had the Glory to shoot the Masts, and to disable entirely the Japonese Admiral, who could take but one fingle Ship, which was even retaken afterwards, The Fight continued five Hours, with an unexpressible Obstinacy on the Part of the Japonese, who had the Advantage of the Wind. The Persian Admiral did not fight but toward the End of the Battle, an extraordinary Proceeding, fo much the more to be blamed, that if they had seconded the Chinese at first, it is very probable that the Japonese Admiral would have been defeated, his Rear-Admiral, between whom and him there was no good Understanding, being at a great Distance from him with his Division, which was, at least, one third Part of the Fleet, and not at Hand to affift him. The Japonese, though several of their Ships were very much shattered, and especially their Admiral, remained Masters of the Field of Battle, and the combined Fleet retired into the Ports of China. The Persian Admiral did all that lay in his Power, to justify himself; but no regard was paid to it, and he was put out of Favour: Too mild a Punishment in the Opinion of the Publick.

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Muzaim c, that Moullah, whom Ismael-Beg d endeavoured, before his Death, to render obnoxious to Cha-Sephi c, as we have already obferved, had at last found Means to get a Seat in the Sophi's Councils. He had a great deal of Wit, he was as pliant as his Predecessor, but more fubtle, more enterprifing, more active, in a word, more capable. He was at least fixty Years old; lean, of a middling Size: He-had brisk Eyes, a cunning Look, a seducing Tongue, and was possessed of the Art of persuading whatever he pleased. He had had many Intrigues during his Life, some of which had given bad Impressions of him, which were not yet blotted out of the Mind of some People; so that he had many Enemies, both within and without the Dominions of the Sophi; and the 7aponese dreaded him. Otherwise he was a subfantial Friend, and the more he was known, the more he was esteemed. He was not free from Ambition, and wished much to be at the Head of the Administration; where, in many Respects, and especially as to what relates to Politicks, he would have behaved very well, whatever his Enemies, and those who envied him might fay. He had the Glory of the State at Heart, but was perhaps a little too much prepossessed in favour of his own Schemes. They ascribed one to him, which Persia brought to light at the Time of the Sea-Fight we have been mentioning. That Scheme, which Muzaim was very capable to imagine, confifted in making a Descent in Japan, and to cause there a Revolution in Favour of a Prince, whofe

c Cardinal De Tencin. d Cardinal De Fleuri. Lewis XV. f Cardinal De Tencin.

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whose Grand-father had formerly been seated on the Throne of that Empire, which the Male-contents forced him to abandon.

Nothing was omitted to fecure the Success of fo great an Undertaking. They caused the Chinese and Fersian Ships, we have spoke of, to sail out of the Harbours, not doubting but the Faponese Admiral would take hold of that Opportunity to engage in Battle: This was all the Persians wanted, because that Fight would give time to execute the Descent in Japan, and tho' the Japonese should gain the Victory, yet they would not be in a Condition to fly to the Affistance of their Country, (it being morally impossible that they should not suffer very much in an Action that was to be very hot) or at least, they could not arrive but too late. These Arguments were very just and grounded on a daily Experience of what happens in Sea-Fights. They had fitted out in other Ports feveral Ships, which were faid to be intended for quite another Expedition than that of Japan. They had put on board those Ships a great Quantity of Arms and warlike Stores; these Ships were ordered to put into a Sea-port Town, where feveral Troops had been affembled to make the intended Descent. Secrefy, which is the Soul of great Undertakings, had been fo well kept, that the Commanders themselves did not know what Expedition they were going upon, till the Moment they fet out. With the same Precaution a considerable Party had been raised in Japan. They had fent from a very distant Country to Ispahan, for the young Prince, who was to act the chief Part, and found means to make him pass through the

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the midst of his most formidable Enemies, under a suppositious Name, and attended by a Brother of Muzaim; a Circumstance which did not a little contribute to make People believe that this Moullah was the Author of the In the Night of a publick Rejoicing, which it was purposely reported that Cha-Sephi would honour with his Presence, and at which many People were persuaded that he really affifted, that Monarch had a fecret Conference with the young Prince, who fet out afterwards Incognito for the Place of the Embarkation. Every thing answered the Sophi's Wishes: The Battle was fought; the Japonese Fleet had suffered enough not to be in a Condition to get into the Harbours of Japan: The fecond Persian Squadron was in the Road of the Sea-Port Town, whence the Troops were to be transported. The young Prince being arrived there without any accident, they embark, they fet fail, and go forwards with the most flattering Hope. But on a sudden a Storm arises, which in a few Hours disperses the whole Fleet, and makes this grand Project miscarry. Such Enterprises require always the utmost dispatch, especially in Winter, when the Inconstancy of the Sea makes every Moment precious. They did not make a quick Dispatch enough in Persia, or, to speak more properly, they could not make more; potwithstanding the positive Orders that were given, and the just Measures that were taken, ome Transports not being able to come in time to the appointed Place, they lost many Days of a favourable Wind. That Delay was not only the Cause which made so material a Project

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Project miscarry, but also the Occasion of the Loss of many Men and some Ships. Fortune favoured the Japonese very much on that Occasion. They were so little upon their Guard, that they had hardly any Ships at home, and fewer Troops still to oppose the Enemy. The Persian Fleet entered again into its own Harbours to repair the Damages it had received, and the young Prince returned to Ispahan, there to expect, from the Generosity of Chasephi, new Means to make a second Attempt.

Soon after this Event Tamet g was removed; this Ex-Minister was but little regretted. Tho' the Sophi rewarded him magnificently, in order that his Removal might not feem a Difgrace, yet it was thought there was some secret Discontent. Cha-Sephi was some time before he gave him a Successor. Ibbi h was at last appointed, and they put under him Zelimi, whom we have already mentioned; a Man, who by his Capacity, and the Reputation he had acquired in feveral important Negociations, deferved that Place as much as any Person whatsoever. They joined with him Kihelt, known by his long Experience, by fome confiderable Commiffions he had been trusted with, and by the Treaty of Gehanabadk. This Disposition did not continue long: Whether it was, that the Sophi thought Ibbi more useful at the Head of his Armies, or for other Reasons, amongst which the Publick reckoned, the little Trust that was fince a long time reposed in Ibbi, he was removed

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removed, and Couton-Cha 1, a Creature of the late Athemadoulet, and who had been some Years Ambassador at the Ottoman Court, was chosen in his Stead. As he was already pretty much advanced in Years, and, fince hls Embaffy, had lived upon his Estate in the Country, he preferred his Retirement before the Splendor of an Employment, which he knew was ticklish, especially in the present Situation of Affairs. Upon his Refusal, Taxis m, eldest Brother to Neamed, was appointed. He had a found and profound Judgment, and was very capable to fill up with Reputation all kinds of Employments; but he was less engaging than his Brother, colder and more rough. The Sophi loaded that Family with Honours and Dignities, one of the Children having at that Time got the Place of Grand-Cadin, from which Feyde o was removed, who was more taken up in Pleasures than with the Functions of his Employment. This Post was in a manner due to the Descendants of Daracha P, Grand-father of the new Cadi, who had acquired in it a great Reputation, and who had known how to make of a pretty mean and not very honourable Employment, an eminent and very important Office.

The Sophi, being determined to act vigorously this Campaign, did at last declare War against the Queen of Golconda, the Emperor of Japan and the King of Nechal. A hundred

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¹ M. De Villeneuve. 1 The Marquis D'Argenson.
1 Lieutenant of the Police. 0 M. Herault. P M.
D'Argenson, Lieutenant of the Police, and afterwards
Keeper of the Seals, mentioned above, p. 8, 9, &c.
9 Hungary. Sardinia. But this is a Mistake of our
Author: For the French King did not declare War
against that Prince.

dred thousand Men marched into Feldran' under the Command of Ibbi and Kalife-Sultant. Seif ", at the Head of fifty thousand Persians, marched to the Banks of the Indus w, and covered the Provinces fituated beyond that River. Scadeck *, who was come again into Fayour, was posted with a considerable Body on the River Ilement, from whence he secured the Principality of Tatta 2 and the neighbouring Countries. Rutor-Cha 2, at the Head of forty thousand Men, was at hand to act as Occasion and Circumstances should require. Befides these several Armies, Cha-Sephi had furnished Cha-Baskan b with twenty thousand Men of old Troops, and had fent to Negeddin a Reinforcement of twenty-two thousand Men, under the Command of Morat-Bakche d, as we

This Year Cha-Sephi made his first Campaign at the Head of his Army in Feldran 7. The Ceylanese began then to find by Experience, as we have observed above, that, by continuing united with the Queen of Golconda 1, they exposed themselves to see those Cities, which had been mortgaged to them by the House of Delly k, taken by the Persians 1: For notwithstanding the good Understanding between the Sophi and the Ceylanese, that Prince besieged some Towns, where the latter kept

have observed when we spoke of Fesova.

Sixe.

"Marshal De Noailles and Count De Sixe.

"Marshal De Coigni.

"The River Moselle."

"Lorrain.

"M. D'Harcourt.

"The late Elector of Bavaria, and Emperor.

"Don Philip.

"Savoy,

"Lewis XV.

"Flanders.

"The French.

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Garrisons, and made himself Master of them. without much Resistance. The Sovereigns of Ceylan were not in a Humour to make their Soldiers fall a Sacrifice to a Cause, in which they continued engaged by Policy, and the Circumstances of the Times rather than by Inclination; and for that Reason they had taken care not to furnish those Places with sufficient Garrisons to make a proper Defence. However, they made heavy Complaints of the Sophi's Attempts upon what they called their Towns, and gave him to understand, that in case he continued, they would be obliged to declare themselves openly. But the Sophi, still using the Troops of Ceylan with fuch Regard as Men do not shew to Enemies, did not for all that alter his Conduct; and answered, that he judged he had as much Right to affist Cha-Baskan, as the Ceylanese thought they had to support Nagar o, since both Parties pretended they were authorised to it by Treaties. The Queen of Golconda P, and her Allies were fo much inferior to Cha-Sephi in Power, that, notwithstanding all their boasting, it was very probable he would, in this Campaign, conquer the greatest Part of what the House of Delly was possessed of in Feldran 9. Rutor-Char was ordered to march with the forty thousand Men under his Command, to one of the strongest Towns, which it was not questioned but he would invest immediately: They were under the same Apprehension at the Court of Golconda, for other Places which were not less important. In vain did Nagar endeavour to animate

n The late Elector of Bavaria, and Emperor. The Queen of Hungary. P Hungary. 9 Flanders.
The Duke of Harcourt.

the Ceylanese from a Principle of Glory; they answered, that they had fulfilled their Engagements, even beyond what they were obliged to do; that it was neither prudent, nor their Interest, to run the Danger of having the War carried into their own Dominions by facrificing themselves for the sake of others; that they had already lost enough during this Campaign, to think of preserving the rest by good Offices and Negociations; and finally, that what determined them not to fall out with Persia, was a Desire of keeping always, by their Mediation, a Door open for a Peace; a Conduct which could not but appear commendable to their Allies. were the Reasons by which the Ceylanese excused themselves from making greater Efforts, or declaring themselves openly.

The Rapidity of Cha-Sephi's Conquests in Feldran s, which the Allies were by no means in a Condition to oppose, was all on a sudden stopped by the News that Prince Salcher had passed the Indus ", and that at the Head of fourfcore thousand Men he put Seif w to the greatest Streights, who had been obliged, with the utmost Precipitation, to abandon the Country he was occupying, and to retire farther up, in order to prevent the Enemy from entring into Persiax. This Passage of the Indus appeared so much the more furprizing, as, though Seif was strong enough to make Salcher buy it very dear, yet that Prince had met with no Resistance from those same Persians, who the Year before had the Glory to disappoint the Attempts he had made.

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^{*} Flanders. Charles. The Rhine. Prussia.

made. It was suspected that the Sophi, in order to dertermine the King of Zagathay , who was strongly solicited to declare against the Queen of Golconda, and who wanted only a Pretence to do it, had given Orders to Seif to fuffer the Golcondians to pass the Indus without Opposition. This Passage was indeed a most specious Pretence to justify before all Afia 2 Gion-Kan's a Conduct: The Necessity, to which by that Event Cha-Sephi was going to be reduced, of ceasing to assist Cha-Baskan b in order to defend his own Dominions; the bad Confequences it would be attended with for the Emperor of Mogul', who was to be destitute of all Affistance; the Apprehension People were under, lest the Queen of Golconda d, by revenging herself of that Prince, should endeavour to enflave even the whole Empire; the Majesty of the Chief of the Empire, and the Dignity of the whole Body exposed; the Honour of the Rajas e whose Interest it was to support the Prince they had chosen; all these Reasons might feem fufficient to determine the King of Zagathay to undertake the Defence of Cha-Bastan, and he made use of them, or at least, of some of them, to justify the Treaty he had lately made with that Emperor, with the Sophi, and with fome other Princes, and to authorize his Hostilities against Nagar 8.

In the mean time Cha-Sephi, who feared lest the Golcondians should make him pay dear for the Complaisance he had to suffer them to pass

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^{*} The King of Pruffia. y Prussia. z Europe. b The Emperor. d Hungary. · Electors. c Germany. f Prussia. & The Queen of Hungary.

the Indus h, without striking a Blow, left Kalife-Sultan', whom he had lately honoured with the great Calaat k at the Head of the Army in Feldran 1, and with thirty-five thousand Men he detached from it, he flew to the Assistance of Seifm. Rutor-Chan had also Orders to go and join him with the Army he commanded. These several Bodies made forced Marches, and joined at last, notwithstanding all the Precautions Salcher o had taken to prevent their Junction: On both Sides the Forces were formidable, the Ardour equal; in the Golcondians a firm Resolution to preserve their Advantages, and even to improve them; in the Persians a strong Desire to make the Enemy repass the Indus P, and to fignalize themselves in the Prefence of their King: These Dispositions left no room to question they should foon come to an Action, and it was daily expected, when the Sophi q fell dangerously ill. In a few Days he was in a dying Condition, it was even reported that he was dead. All other Concern gave way in the Hearts of the Persians to that they were in for fo dear a Prince: The Love they had for him, the too well-grounded Fear they were in of lofing him, especially in the present Situation of Affairs, suspended all the Operations of War, and the Generals took no other Care but to post themselves so securely, that the Enemy could make no Advantage of the Consternation of the Persians, nor of the Missortune that threaten'd them. But at the Time there

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Marshalof France. ¹ Flanders. ^m Marshal De Coigni.

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there were no Hopes, but from the Strength of Age and Nature, a favourable Crisis snatched that Prince out of the Arms of Death. The publick Joy was equal to the Concern they were in before; all the Orders of the State shewed their Gladness in Emulation of one another: And for two Months nothing was to be seen in Persia, but Rejoicings and Feastings, which occasioned a prodigious Expence, notwithstanding the Care that was taken to keep them within Bounds, lest the Estates of private Persons should be impaired. These were Proofs of Zeal and Love, very honourable to the Nation, and still more glorious for the Prince.

Prince Salcher's Passage over the Indus , and his Irruption into the neighbouring Provinces, were not attended with fuch fatal Confequences for Persia, as were justly apprehended. The March of the King of Zagathay', at the Head of a hundred-thousand Men, towards the Kingdom of Jenupart, obliged Salcher to repais the River immediately, in order to oppose this new Enemy. But whatever haste he made, he could not arrive foon enough to prevent the taking of the Capital, and the Conquest of Part of the Kingdom. This Conduct of Gion-Kan was extremely exclaimed against by the Queen of Golconda's Allies, and especially by the Ceylaneze, who did not spare him in their The Animofity of the People of Discourses. Ceylan against that Prince, made them so blind with regard to their own Interest, that they did not perceive how much it was their Advantage that he should thus declare against Na-

K 4 gar

The Rhine. Prussia. Bohemia. "The King"

gar^u, at a Time when the Claim he laid to feveral of their Dominions, and which he feemed inclined to affert by main Force, could not fail to occasion an open War between Zagathay and Ceylan^w; they did not fee that the Engagements Gion-Kan was just entered into, removed the Storm far from them, and that, as the War he undertook would in all probability cost him a great many Men, and immense Sums, it would be a long time before he could

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be in a Condition to disturb them.

The Diversion made by the King of Zagathay, was a terrible Stroke for the Queen of Golconda x. By this the Dominions of that Princess became again the Theatre of the War: By this Cha-Bascan y and his Allies were at hand, not only to recover Visapouran 2, notwithstanding the thirty thousand Men, which Salcher a had the Precaution to put into it as he was marching to the Relief of Jenupar b but even to carry their Arms into the Principality of Delly c. Finally, by this the Persians d, being delivered from the dangerous Neighbourhood of the Golcondians, were at liberty to enter in their Turn into the Provinces subject to Nagare, with Hopes of carrying their Conquests very far. It was very difficult for the Queen of Golconda to stand so many Enemies at once: The Confederate Army in Feldranf continued in a State of Inactivity, which belied the Reports that were spread as though it was immediately to attack Kalife-Sultan ; and indeed

[&]quot;The Queen of Hungiry. " Prussia and Holland.

Hungary. "The Emperor. "Bavaria. " Prince
Charles. "Bohemia. "Austria. "French. "The
Queen of Hungary. "Flanders. "Count De Saxe.

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indeed it was not probable that the Allies would undertake any thing against an experienced General, who was advantageously posted, and against whom it was very dangerous to fit down with an Army but little superior to his. Happily for the Queen of Golconda, Selim-Kan, King of Thibet, and Raja of Lahor h being perfuraded by the Solicitations, and more still by the Subfidies of the Emperor of Japan, declared for her, and fent a Succour of twenty two thousand Men to Prince Salcher. This Reinforcement put him in a Condition to retake most of the Towns, which the King of Zagathay had seized upon, and to force that Monarch to retire with fo much the more Precipitation, as on the one Hand he apprehended to be obliged to come to a Battle, which he would probably have loft, his Army being confiderably leffened by Sickness and Defertion; and on the other it concerned him very much to cover the Province of Bacar 1, which an Army of Golcondians k lately raised, threatened with an Invasion. Gion-Kan's 1 Retreat was fo fudden, that he had not Time to withdraw the Garrisons he had at Jenupar m and in two or three other Towns: The greatest Part of them were made Prisoners of War: Above eight thousand Men, who were in 7enupar went out with an immense Booty; but they were so harrassed by the Enemy, that but few of them joined the grand Army.

K 5

Such

k Hungarians and Austrians. The King of Prussia.

Prague.

Such was the End of Gion-Kan's Enterprise, which Nagar's " Friends openly stiled a foolish Attempt. It might however have deserved quite another Name, if Cha-Sephi's Illness had not prevented the Execution of the Design that was formed to attack Salcher o, to force him to repais the Rhine, and to harrass him in his Retreat, so as to put it out of his Power to make Head against the King of Zagathay; or if after the Sophi's Recovery it had been possible to make Haste enough by forced Marches to fall upon the Golcondians P, or to put them between the Fires of the Troops of Zagathay, and those of the Persians; or finally, if the Season had suffered the latter to enter into the Queen of Golconda's Dominions, far enough to oblige Salcher to march thither, and to extricate, by that Diversion, the King of Zagathay, who in that case had been strong enough at least to keep the Conquests he had made.

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The Queen of Golconda's Success against Gione-Kan was ballanced by the Loss of some Towns, and, amongst other, of a considerable one, which the Sophi took after a long and bloody Siege, and by Cha-Bascan's recovering Part of Visapouran a. These several Expeditions closed the Campaign, and each Party went into Winter-Quarters. Persia, designing to be at Hand to begin Hostilities very soon the next Year, resolved to make forty-thousand Men, under the Command of Azer, who was come into Favour again, take Winter-Quarters, by sair or soul Means, in the Dominions of the Rajas

Arians. 9 Bavaria. 1 Marshal Maillebois.

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Rajas of Guzarate, Bucker and Multan. It was even given out, that that Army was defigned to attack the Principality of Cabul, or to penetrate into the Dominions of the King of Lagathay, in order to force him to stand firm, in case he had some Thoughts to forsake the common Cause, as the Persians had some Reasons to fear he had.

The Sophi was impatiently expected at Ispahan '; he went thither at last, was received with great Acclamations, the People rejoicing as much to fee again a Prince they adored, as they had been moved with Grief, when they apprehended to lose him. His Illness proved fatal only to Ofiria ", and to her Sifter Doghdon. They had followed him into Feldran w, and from thence to the Indus x, as had also done several other Ladies of the Court. During his Illness, the two Sisters were ordered to withdraw immediately, and were deprived of the Employments they owed to his Love. But the Return of his Health put an End to their Misfortune. They returned to Court, where their Triumph was so much the more splendid, as their Employments were also restored to them, and Osiria received new Proofs of Cha-Sephi's. This Favourite foon after Inclination for her. her Return to Court was feized with a Distemper, which carried her to her Grave. Some fuspected that she was poisoned; others ascribed. her Death to a Remedy taken in an improper Time; some also imagined it was occasioned: by an excessive Joy. She left great Riches behind!

Paris. " Madem. Chateauroux. "Flanders..."

* The Rhine.

hind her, which she bequeathed to her Sisters. Cha-Sephi was extremely afflicted at the Death of Ofiria; but more important Cares diverted his Grief. One of those Cares, which was none of the leaft, was the Marriage of the Prince of Persia, with a Daughter of the Emperor of China 2: It was just concluded; and an Ambassador was to be chosen to make a solemn Demand of the Princess. All the Lords of the first Rank were ambitious of that Honour. Mirza 2, Governor of the young Prince, pretended that as fuch he had a Right to be chosen for that Ambassy. His illustrious Birth, his Rank, his Merit, befides the Advantage of having educated the prefumptive Heir to the Crown, might have made Cha-Sephi incline in his Favour; but he had been banished a few Days before that Prince's Return. His Difgrace had even been kept fo fecret, that but a few Hours were granted to him and his Spouse, to prepare themselves to obey. He was a Man pretty much advanced in Years, of a cold Access, unshaken in his Resolutions, but little ambitious, and who asked for no Favours: He was of a Temper but little indulgent, and not flexible: But otherwise very worthy by his noble Sentiments, and by his uncommon Honesty, of the Preference Cha-Sephi had given him for the Education of his Successor. Some Discourses he had imprudently dropped, and which were still more imprudently reported, were the Cause of his Banishment.

In the mean Time, various Reports were daily made concerning the Choice of an Ambaffador to China. But at last the Sophi fix-

Y The Dauphin. 2 The King of Spain. 2 M. De Chatillon.

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ed the publick Uncertainties, by appointing Moulah-Baubec-Kan b, who was then his Ambassador at the Court of Peking c. The Nomination of that Moulah was owing perhaps to Cha-Sephi's Inclinations for Savingness, as much as to the strong Solicitations of his Friends, who were fure not to lose so proper an Opportunity to render his Fortune more splendid.

At the Time of Mirza's Banishment, Azouf, who was Governor to Prince Jeffeing's d Son, met with the same Fate. This gave so much the more Surprise, as he was a near Relation of Taxis e, and Neamed f, Ministers who were deeply in Favour, and had introduced him at Court, and supported him till then. He was so little beloved, that he met with no Person who was

concerned for his Misfortune.

Several Courtiers, amongst whom there were some whom the Sophi had used with Distinction. were also disgraced, for taking the Liberty of blaming the Defign Cha-Sephi had taken to reftore young Sevagi 8, and consequently his Coufins, the two Princes, Sons to Soliman h, to all the Honours, Ranks, Rights, and Prerogatives, which Cha-Abas the Great had folemnly granted to their Fathers, and of which, after that Monarch's

b The Bishop of Reimes. c Madrid. d The Duke of Chartres, Son to the Duke of Orleans, and Grandson to the late Regent. . M. D'Argenson, Secretary of State for foreign Affairs. f M. D'Argenson, Minister of War. & The Duke of Ponthievre, Son to the late Count of Toulouse. h The late Duke of Maine. He and his Brother the Count of Toulouse were Bastards of Lewis XIV, who had legitimated them, granted to them all the Honours of the Princes of the Blood, and even made them and their Heirs capable to succeed to the Crown, in Case the Male-Lines of the royal Family should all become extinct.

narch's Death, they were deprived in an authentick Manner, at least with regard to their Posterity. This Injustice was done to those Princes, chiefly at the Request of Mirza-Haddi, and by the Instigation of his Mother Roxana, a haughty Woman, who was not sensible that she disgraced herself by thus persecuting her own Blood. What seemed most odious in this Princes's Conduct was, that she forced her Son, if I may say so, to strike the first Blows, at the very Time he was engaged in a Party of Pleasure at the Castle of Sevagi the Father.

The Motive, which moved the Sophi to revive the Decrees of Cha-Abas the Great, was the Marriage of the young Prince Sevagi with Anais k, Niece to Prince Jesseing, which it was defired should be preceded by that Act of royal Authority. It was natural enough for Cha-Sephi to give fignal Proofs of Friendship to a Princess of his own Blood, and to do in Behalf of the Children that might be born of her all that could be expected from the fovereign Power, This most of the Grandees, who were jealous of transmitting to their Posterity their Rights and Ranks without any Alteration or Mixture of Blood, pretended to oppose. This Affair put the whole Court in a very great Agitation; the most prudent of the Courtiers acted underhand; the imprudent exclaimed loudly, and were punished by Banishment. But notwithstanding these Proofs of the Sophi's Severity, and how favourably foever he might be disposed towards Sevagi, his Defign could not but meet with very great Difficulties, and all that his fupreme Will could effect was to prevent Protests, and other Deeds of the same kind.

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The Duke of Bourbon. & Princess of Modena.

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Anais, a young and beautiful Princess, and by her Mother's Side descended from the Royal Blood, could not but flatter the Inclination and Ambition of Sevagi. She had been on the Point of marrying Mirgi-Mola 1. Her Mother Scherazada m, had conducted herfelf fo artfully, that she had found Means to carry her Point to the Prejudice of Zephis " Fulnia's Mother. They were just about taking the last Measures, when Zephis fet new Engines to work, which disappointed Scherazada's Expectations. The Court was then at a Country Seat a Day's Journey distant from Ispahan o: Scherazada enjoyed there all the Satisfaction a Mother can have from the Certainty of having procured a considerable Match for her Daughter: She had no manner of Miftrust; and it was with the utmost Surprise she was told one Evening, that she was no longer to depend upon Mirgi-Mola for a Son-in-Law: She questioned it at first, and being desirous to be fatisfied, the fet out immediately for Ispahan, and went to the Palace of Fesseing, where that fad News was confirmed to her. Her Grief was excessive, but did not make her forget, that fince the Ceremony was not yet performed, there were still some Hopes left. 'She left no Stone unturned in order to secure the Success of an Affair, in all Respects so advantageous; but the had the Vexation to fee that all her Endeavours proved ineffectual: The Marriage of her Daughter with Prince Sevagi comforted her, if fome Difference in Rank and Riches can comfort: an ambitious Heart.

At

¹ The Duke of Chartres.

The Dutchess of Modena.

The Princess Downger of Conti.

Paris.

At that Time Zensea P, a Persian Officer, who a few Months before had been degraded with the most odious Marks of Infamy, for making a shameful Capitulation in a Fortress that was committed to his Care, and which it was thought he might have defended, cleared himself, and was restored to his former Rank. A noble Instance of Cha-Sephi's Justice, and still more of his Kindness and Moderation. Under a less in. dulgent Administration, they would have acted quite otherwise: That Officer would have been immediately punished with Death, and would have been so much the more to be pitied under his Misfortune, as too great a Precipitation would have put it out of his Power to retrieve his Honour and Reputation.

The Preparations that were making for the Prince of Persia's Marriage, did not prevent the Sophi from giving a most particular Attention to take proper Measures for carrying on the War with Vigour. New Levies were making; great Numbers of Troops were ordered to march into Feldran q, where it was reported the Campain would be opened very early in the Season by the Siege of some important Town; there was a great Rumour of an approaching and numerous Promotion of General-Officers: In a Word proper dispositions were making to carry on a glorious offensive War the next Spring, notwithstanding the Projects of Accommodation that were on the Anvil, and the fincere Inclination the Sophi professed he had to promote the Peace of Afia . The Queen of Golconda , the Emperor

P Genfac, Hungary.

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of Japan and their Allies omitted nothing on their Side to make their Arms victorious: They reckon'd to receive a confiderable Affiftance from Russia in the Spring; they hoped that during the Winter they should engage several other Princes to enter into their Alliance, and even to conquer the Aversion which the Jalekeldarians seemed to have against entering into the War, or declaring against Cha-Baskan w, with whom their King, as Prince of the Empire of Mogul whad since a few Months entered into an Alliance by the Treaty of Amadabat x, together with the King of Zagathay, the Raja of Brampour z, and some other Princes.

Such was the Situation of the general Affairs, when Remana, only Sifter to the Queen of Golconda, and who had been about a Year married with Prince Salcher 2, happened to die in the Capital City of that Part of Feldran b which belongs to the House of Delly c, and of which she was Governess. The Death of this Princess was very much lamented: She was but Twentyfix Years old; her Good-nature, her Humanity, her endearing Character, her Beauty, which many Persons thought was superior to her Sifter's, had rendered her the Darling of the People, and made them the more afflicted for her Death. A difficult Labour, by which she was delivered only of a dead Child, threw her into a lingering Distemper, which continued above two Months, and which the whole Skill

of Bavaria. w Of Germany. The King of Prussia is Prince of Heise. * Francfort. y Prussia.

The Elector Palatine. Charles. b Flanders.
Austria.

of the most eminent Physicians could not cure. By her Death the Queen of Golconda gained an Advantage, which was, that it made void that Clause of her Marriage-Contract with Narsic 4. by which it was agreed, that in case she had no Male-Children, and Remana had any, the latter alone would have a Right to fucceed to the Hereditary Dominions of the House of Delly. from which Nagar's Daughters would be excluded. Though the Queen of Golconda had a Son, and might hope to have more, yet there would still have been room to be uneasy with regard to future Times, if Romana had left some Male-Heirs; whereas her Death happening without any Posterity, removed all Causes of Uneafiness: A Motive proper enough to ease one's Grief.

An Event, which happened foon after Remana's Death, gave a full Scope to the Speculations of Politicians. After the Persian Troops were gone into Quarters, Scadeck , instead of returning to Isahan E, set out from the Army with his Brother and a numerous Retinue. He went first to Cha-Baskan s, and from thence he took his Journey by the Frontiers of Cabul, in order as it was faid, to go and concert with the King of Zagathay h, the Operations of the ensuing Cam-Perhaps also it was with a Design to make fure of that turbulent and discontented Prince, who complained loudly of the Persians for not attacking the Golcondians 1, when they repassed the Indus k, or at least for not following

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d The Grand Duke of Tuscany.

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lowing them when they marched to Fenupar ". a double Fault, said he, which had hurted the common Cause exceedingly, because it obliged him to abandon his Conquests, and to retire with Precipitation before an Enemy, whom they might have defeated, if they had fought him, or whom they would have put between two Fires, if they had followed him. The War, which was carrying on, being in some manner Scadeck's own Work, it was his Province to make Persia extricate herself out of it with Honour. He was very much known and esteemed by the King of Zagathay; it was therefore very probable that he had no other View in this Journey but to confer with that Prince. Scadeck, whose Journey was no Secret, arrived on the Borders of Cabul, and as a Perfian General he was arrested with his whole Retinue for want of Passports, and also under a Pretence of the War, which Cha-Sephi had declared against Chanavas-Kan, Emperor of Japan, and —— of Cabul. Some imagined that this Affair would be attended with great Confequences, whilst others looked upon it as a defigned Piece of Policy. It feemed indeed inconsistent with good Sense, for Scadeck, whose Design was to go Attock , to take his Way by Cabul, rather than the common Road, and that in fuch a Case he should have neglected to provide himself with Passports, unless he had a premeditated Design to be arrested; that thus by his Confinement the Sophi, who did perhaps mistrust the King of Zagathay, or was tired with him, might have a specious Pretence to break with him, or to justify himself

Bohemia. n Berlin.

in case the following Operations did not succeed to that Prince's Wishes, suppose he should constantly adhere to the Alliance. But that Monarch's fudden Departure from his Capital City to his Army, which he had left but a few Days before, precifely at the Time when Scadeck " was on his Journey, and it was reported that he was going to him, gave room to suspect, that Gion-Kan would avoid all Conferences, and confequently that he would recede from the Treaty of Amadabat °. Some Persons imagined that Scadeck took his Journey by the Frontiers, of Cabul on purpose to examine with his own Eyes, whether it would not be possible to make the Persian Army penetrate into that Principality; that Army, I mean, which was encamped towards Guzarate and Multan P, by leading it over Mountains of a difficult Access indeed, but yet not quite impassable. This Suspicion was so much the better grounded, as those Mountains, which were looked upon as a sufficient Defence, were neither guarded nor fortified, and Scadeck affected to pass over them with his whole Retinue, among whom there were feveral Officers very understanding, and capable to draw a Plan of the Country. People went further still; they imagined that Scadeck was arrested in the Dominions of Cabul with no other View but to give him an easy and most natural Opportunity to enter into some Negociations with the Emperor of Japan, in order to promote a general Peace, or to make fome private Treaty; in confequence of which Surmizes, it was not questioned

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At that same time a Report was spread, that Cha-Sephi was going immediately to grant to the Gaures 9 a free and publick Exercise of their Religion within his Dominions. This Project, which feveral Persons look upon as a great Piece of Policy, met with many Opposers: Some called it into Cuestion; others judged the Execution of it impossible, because it was clashing with the Interest of the Gentlemen of the Law , who are always ready to make a Shew of an excessive Zeal, and, having it in their Power to turn as they please the Minds of the People, always superstitious, and confequently always ignorant, are ready to overturn the whole State, rather than to suffer certain Innovations.

If I may be allowed to declare what I think concerning the Defigns that are ascribed to Sovereign Princes; that Project should not have appeared imaginary, nor the Execution of it

impossible.

How large foever and populous a Country Persia may be, the great Losses she had sustained during three Years and an half of War, had carried off a prodigious Number of Men. New Levies could not be made without the greatest Difficulties, fince, for want of Batchelors, they had been obliged, even for some Years past to press married Men; most of the Soldiers, which the feveral Provinces had furnished, were under the common Size, too young, and fo weak, that a great Number of them died, before they could reach the Bodies, or the Garrisons for

⁹ The Protestants in France. The Clergy.

which they were defigned. The old Regiments were dwindled away, and had kept nothing but their Name; there were hardly in each of them a hundred Men who had seen the War, and were capable to train the new Comers to handle their Arms, to the warlike Discipline, and military Labour; and to inspire them with what is called the Spirit of the Corps. In all likelihood the War was to be long and bloody: There was no depending on the new Levies, till they had passed three Years in Garrisons; and yet the feveral Regiments were to be compleated. and others to be put in the room of those which were drawn every Year out of the Garrisons: The Peasants, a kind of Men who people the Armies, failed: The Impossibility they were under to pay Taxes, and a Misery, that cannot be well described, had, since several Years, forced a vast Number of them, to quit their Villages, and renounce the Tilling of the Lands, and even to fly their Country; which could not but occasion a considerable Diminution in the Sophi's Revenue; a most important Article with regard to War! It was of the utmost Consequence to afford a quick Remedy to all those Evils; and the most proper Method for it was certainly to endeavour to get new Inhabitants, who might prove a Resource to the State, both by their Number, and by contributing to the publick Charges. The Choice of a new Swarm of People was not indifferent; it was but natural to pitch upon those, who by by their Birth, or Extraction, were in a manner, connected with the State, and still preserved in their Heart that Love for one's native Country, which seems to be born with all Men, or that fecret

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fecret Inclination, which Children commonly have for their Father's Country. The Gaures in general had all these Qualifications; and further their Stay in foreign Countries had rendered them more industrious, more sit for Trade, more rich, and even more tractable, and consequently very proper to make a Country flourish (a). Independently of the respectable Montives

* The French Protestants.

(a) Here our Author feems to suppose, that in case a general Toleration were granted to the Protestants in France, this would draw thither again these, whom the Perfecution had driven out of that Country. But he is greatly mistaken: For, in the first Place, most of the Protestants who were living when the Edict of Nanies was repealed in 1685, are now dead, and the rest so old, that they must think of their Grave, rather than of returning into their native Country. Secondly, They who were born in Protestant and free Countries, are there naturalized, and justly reckon themselves the Subjects of these States: They are settled there; some of them have bought Estates; others have publick Employments Civil or Military; the rest have applied themselves to Trade, or other Professions, which afford them a plentiful and fecure Livelihood. Add to all this, the Sweets of Liberty, and of living under a free Is it to be supposed that they would re-Government. nounce all those Advantages, to go and put themselves again under an arbitrary Government, where, whatever Liberty might for the present be granted to them, they could never be fure to enjoy it long; and where, even their Property, or what they might get by the Sweat of their Brows, would always be at the Mercy of a despotic Prince? They who are in the least conversant with the Protestants, here in England, cannot but know that they look upon themselves as Englishmen, and would not give up that Advantage for any thing they might be offered in their Ancestor's Country.

which they were defigned. The old Regiments were dwindled away, and had kept nothing but their Name; there were hardly in each of them a hundred Men who had seen the War, and were capable to train the new Comers to handle their Arms, to the warlike Discipline, and military Labour; and to inspire them with what is called the Spirit of the Corps. In all likelihood the War was to be long and bloody: There was no depending on the new Levies, till they had passed three Years in Garrisons; and yet the feveral Regiments were to be compleated, and others to be put in the room of those which were drawn every Year out of the Garrifons: The Peafants, a kind of Men who people the Armies, failed: The Impossibility they were under to pay Taxes, and a Misery, that cannot be well described, had, since several Years, forced a vast Number of them, to quit their Villages, and renounce the Tilling of the Lands, and even to fly their Country; which could not but occasion a considerable Diminution in the Sophi's Revenue; a most important Article with regard to War! It was of the utmost Consequence to afford a quick Remedy to all those Evils; and the most proper Method for it was certainly to endeavour to get new Inhabitants, who might prove a Resource to the State, both by their Number, and by contributing to the publick Charges. The Choice of a new Swarm of People was not indifferent; it was but natural to pitch upon those, who by by their Birth, or Extraction, were in a manner, connected with the State, and still preserved in their Heart that Love for one's native Country, which feems to be born with all Men, or that fecret

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* The French Protestants.

(a) Here our Author feems to suppose, that in case a general Toleration were granted to the Protestants in France, this would draw thither again these, whom the Perfecution had driven out of that Country. But he is greatly mistaken: For, in the first Place, most of the Protestants who were living when the Edict of Nantes was repealed in 1685, are now dead, and the rest so old, that they must think of their Grave, rather than of returning into their native Country. Secondly, They who were born in Protestant and free Countries, are there naturalized, and justly reckon themselves the Subjects of these States: They are settled there; some of them have bought Estates; others have publick Employments Civil or Military; the rest have applied themselves to Trade, or other Professions, which afford them a plentiful and fecure Livelihood. Add to all this, the Sweets of Liberty, and of living under a free Is it to be supposed that they would re-Government. nounce all those Advantages, to go and put themselves again under an arbitrary Government, where, whatever Liberty might for the present be granted to them, they could never be fure to enjoy it long; and where, even their Property, or what they might get by the Sweat of their Brows, would always be at the Mercy of a despotic Prince? They who are in the least conversant with the Protestants, here in England, cannot but know that they look upon themselves as Englishmen, and would not give up that Advantage for any thing they might be offered in their Ancestor's Country.

tives of Religion, the Perfecution that was carried on against them, did Persia an unexpressible Prejudice: The Country was dispeopled by it; the Arts suffered, the Prince's Treasures were diminished, and foreign Countries enriched. How great are these Objects! How moving to a Sovereign! It were not surprising if Cha-Sephi had been affected by them, and had resolved to act accordingly. Any sensible Prince, acquainted with the Truth, zealous for the Good of his Subject, and an able Politician, would do the same.

There were other Motives, which might determine the Sophi to publish such an Edict in Favour of the Gaures. There was a prodigious Number of them in foreign Countries, and especially in those with which he was at War. The Trust they reposed in the Sophi, the Love of their Country, the Mildness of its Climate, and more frequent and easy Means of making their Fortune, might determine great Numbers of them to return into Persia. What a considerable Loss would not this be, for the Sophi's Enemies, or for those who might become so afterwards.

The Project of causing a Revolution in Japan, was not entirely given up; it might be revived in some favourable Conjunctures: It was
therefore agreeable to sound Policy to endeavour to win the Gaures, who are very numerous in that Empire, and to dispose them before-hand, not to prevent at least the Success of
that Undertaking.

It appeared more than probable, that the Ceylanese " would at last declare themselves open-

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were the strongest Part of their Subjects: The Resentment for the Ills they had suffered in Persia, gave them for Persian Government an Aversion which the Natives had not; it was of great Consequence to erase those bad Impressions; and to inspire the Gaures with more favourable Sentiments, which might, if not restore them to their Country, at least make them wish for, and perhaps promote the conquering of the Dominions of Geylan, either in the Whole or in Part, in Case a War was declared between the Sophi and the Ceylanese.

There were still in Persia a great Number of Families of the Religion of the Gaures, which they professed secretly, but took that Obscurity and Constraint very much to Heart. The Enemies of Persia were not ignorant of this. It was very much to be apprehended, left they should find Means to persuade these Gaures, amongst whom there were some very powerful Men, to fet up the Banner of Rebellion, and thus a civil War begotten by the foreign War, might bring the State to the Brink of Ruin. It was but Prudence to prevent so great a Misfortune, and to render those Families zealous for the Glory and Preservation of their Country; for which Purpose the most proper Means was to win them by what Men look upon as their greatest Concern, I mean their Belief, and the Liberty of making a publick Profession of it. This kind of Policy could not fail of Success, because the Gaures would have esteemed themselves very happy to be upon the same Footing with the other Subjects of the Sephi, to

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* The French Protestants.

whom in that Case they would not have been

inferior with regard to Zeal and Loyalty.

As for the Opposition of the Lawyers 7, if it be examined without Prepossession, it will not be found unconquerable. The Right of interpreting the Law is devolved to the Chiefs 2; to them it belongs to open or shut the Mouth of those who are trusted a with the Instruction of the People; it is they who guide and direct their Inferiors as they please. It is well known that few of these Chiefs are free from Ambition, self Interest, and a Desire to be in Favour at Court, to make a Figure there, and to have it in their Power to provide for their Relations. What great Resources will not Policy find in those different Passions, to make those Chiefs, and consequently all their Dependants, act and speak as the Court directs.

There are in Persia another kind of Men more dangerous still, because they are not connected with the other Subjects, and have perfonally nothing to lose b. But some serious Reflections upon their Usefulness to the State; upon their Rules of Life, and the confiderable Alterations that have been successively made in them; upon the Interest that governs them; upon their Genius, and the Artifices they make use of to compass their Ends; upon the Apprehension they are under of a strict enquiry into their primitive and actual Possessions; upon the Advantages which might arise, from their being prohibited to have any Correspondence abroad, especially with Women and Children; from

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y The Clergy. 2 The Bishops. 2 The inferior Clergy.
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from their being made to be immediately under the Dependancy of the Chiefs of the Lawyers c, and from their being forbidden under severe Penalties, strictly executed, to receive amongst them Persons of a certain age: Would not all this, I say, not to mention other Methods, be very proper to keep them in Awe, and prevent them from doing any Mischief.

Upon the whole, what could be apprehended from the Infinuations or Instigations either of the Lawyers, or of the Faquires d, if a particular Care was taken to make the Arts and Trade flourish; to encourage Agriculture by Rewards and even by honourable Distinctions; to beflow Money liberally upon fuch Persons as have large Families; to administer Justice without partiality; to put the whole People into such a good Condition, as not to be sensible of their present Misery? Men, how ignorant soever they may be supposed, will always chuse, generally speaking, a settled Condition, before an uncertain Futurity, capable to make them lose the present Tranquillity which they enjoy and are pleased with. The temporal Interest is the first Object they are moved with; that of Religion is but a subordinate one: And if they do not perceive, that Religion will either fecure or better their Fortune; they will do nothing for it. A Sentiment, which one would be apt to think Providence imprinted in their Mind to prevent the Effects of Superstition, and a false Zeal.

L 2 Thefe

d The Clergy or the Monks.

^{*} That is to say the Bishops, whereas the Monks pretend to depend immediately from the Pope, and not to be under the Jurisdiction of the Bishops.

220 The SECRET HISTORY

These Restections will, doubtless, be found too long, and so much the more preposterous, as they only relate to a Project, which had perhaps no other Foundation, but a vulgar Report. But if it be considered of what Consequence that Project is in itself, we shall perhaps have the Reader's Thanks for endeavouring to find out what Motives might have induced the Court of Persia, to think of it, and for explaining some of the Means which we judged proper to render practicable to the Execution of it.

c. France.



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